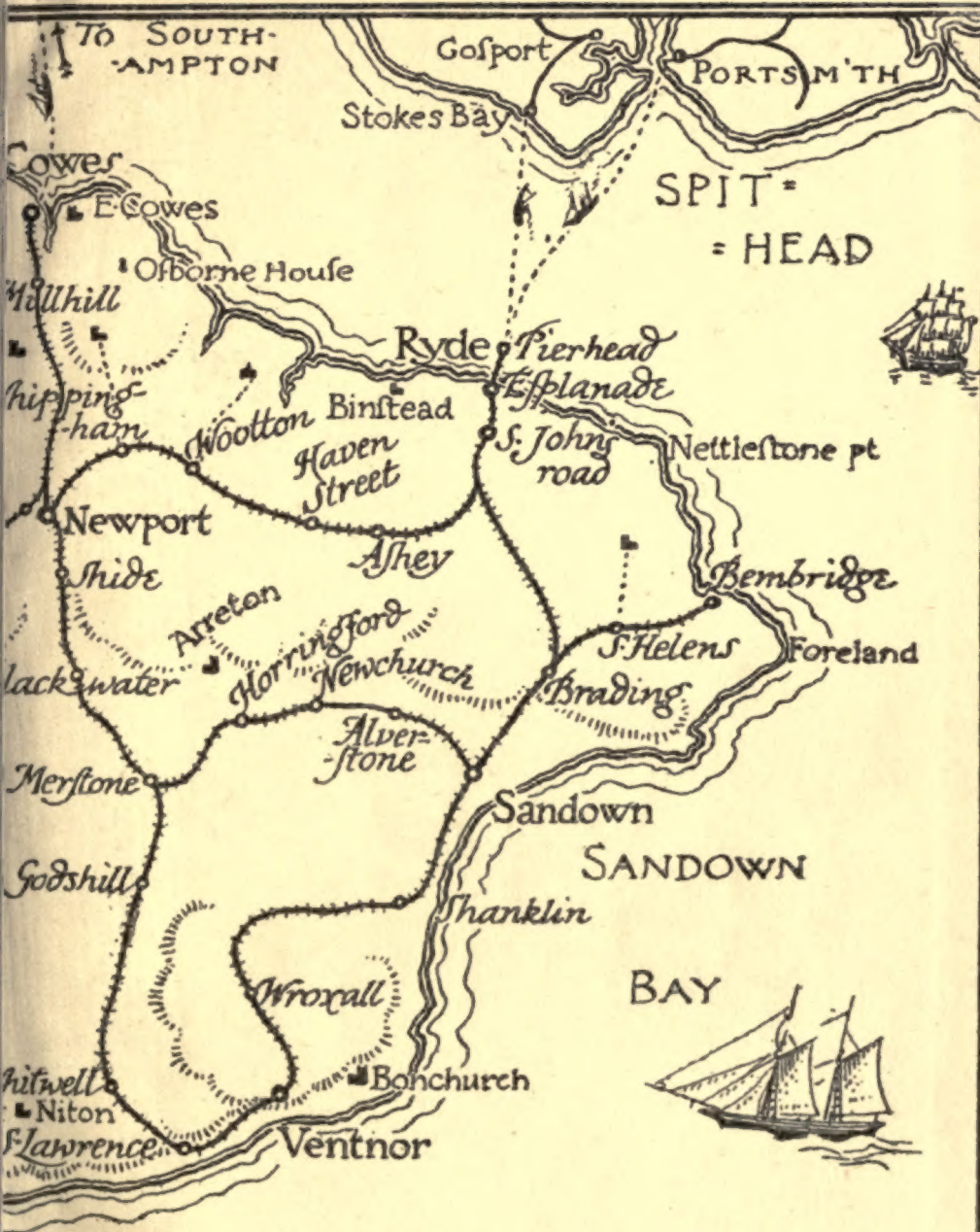


# THE RAILWAYS OF





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# THE ISLE OF WIGHT





THE END OF THE WORLD





## THE LITTLE GUIDES

### THE ISLE OF WIGHT

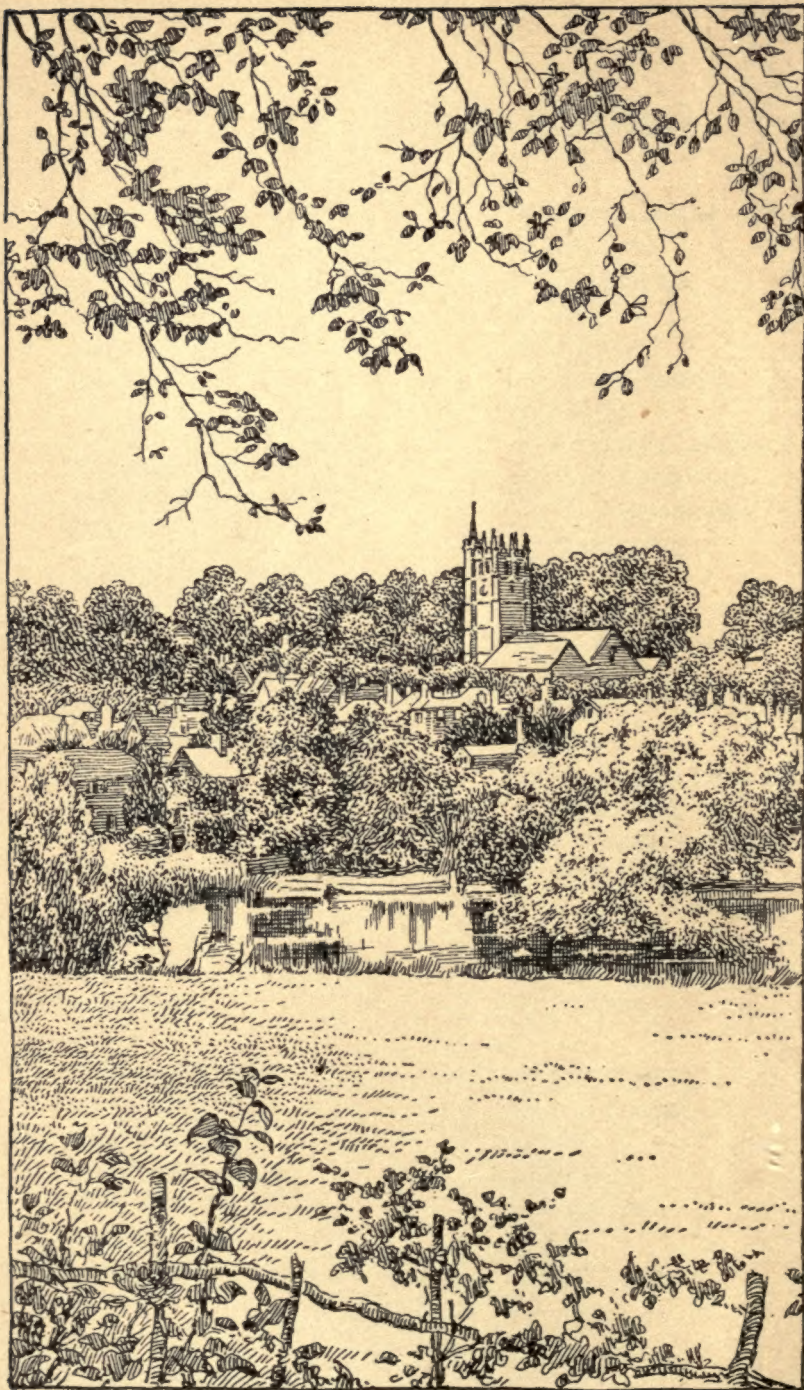
# THE LITTLE GUIDES

CAMBRIDGE AND ITS  
COLLEGES  
OXFORD AND ITS COLLEGES  
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL  
THE TEMPLE  
WESTMINSTER ABBEY  
  
THE ENGLISH LAKES  
THE MALVERN COUNTRY  
SHAKESPEARE'S COUNTRY  
SNOWDONIA  
  
BEDFORDSHIRE AND  
HUNTINGDONSHIRE  
BERKSHIRE  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
THE CHANNEL ISLANDS  
CHESHIRE  
CORNWALL  
CUMBERLAND AND  
WESTMORLAND  
DERBYSHIRE  
DEVON  
DORSET  
DURHAM  
ESSEX  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE  
HAMPSHIRE  
HEREFORDSHIRE  
HERTFORDSHIRE  
THE ISLE OF WIGHT  
KENT  
LANCASHIRE

LEICESTERSHIRE AND  
RUTLAND  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
LONDON  
MIDDLESEX  
MONMOUTHSHIRE  
NORFOLK  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
NORTHUMBERLAND  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
OXFORDSHIRE  
SHROPSHIRE  
SOMERSET  
STAFFORDSHIRE  
SUFFOLK  
SURREY  
SUSSEX  
THE EAST RIDING OF  
YORKSHIRE  
THE NORTH RIDING OF  
YORKSHIRE  
THE WEST RIDING OF  
YORKSHIRE  
WARWICKSHIRE  
WILTSHIRE  
  
NORTH WALES  
SOUTH WALES  
KERRY  
BRITTANY  
NORMANDY  
ROME  
SICILY







CARISBROOKE VILLAGE



THE  
ISLE OF WIGHT

*By*

GEORGE · CLINCH

*With Illustrations by*

F · D · BEDFORD

AND FROM PHOTOGRAPHS, TWO  
MAPS AND THREE PLANS

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“Of all the southern isles she holds the highest  
place.”

M. DRAYTON

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To  
JOHN HENRY OGLANDER  
ESQUIRE, F.S.A..  
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ONE OF THE  
OLDEST FAMILIES IN THE ISLAND,  
THIS LITTLE GUIDE BOOK  
IS  
GRATEFULLY INSCRIBED  
BY  
THE WRITER



## PREFACE

AN attempt has been made to embody in this little volume some of the more interesting facts about an island of peculiar natural beauty and charm, and not without historical associations of considerable importance.

Much has already been written about the Isle of Wight, and the writer makes no claim to any great originality in the information he presents to the reader in the following pages; but he has striven to be precise and accurate in his facts, and he has endeavoured to present them in concise and convenient form. The pleasure of compiling this little work has been much enhanced by the very friendly assistance the writer has received, and his particular thanks are due to Mr John H. Oglander, F.S.A., for much kind help and the loan of books from the library at Nunwell, and to Mr Percy G. Stone, F.S.A., for permission to have drawings made from his plans of Carisbrooke Castle and Quarr Abbey.

ADDISCOMBE

*7th February 1904*





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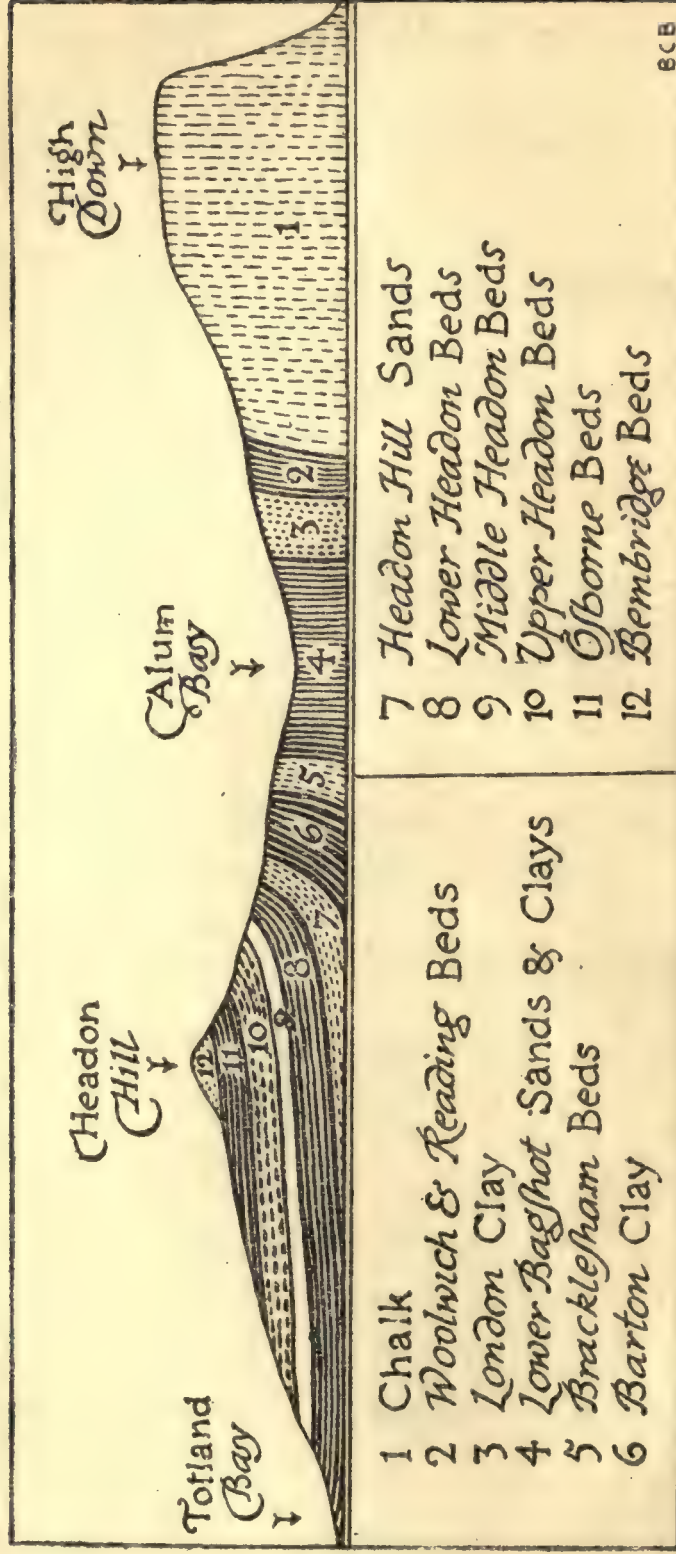


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*Section from Totland Bay to High Down showing Strata*

## INTRODUCTION

THE Isle of Wight shares with Kent the reputation of being the garden of England, and it must be allowed that the reputation is well merited. Kent, perhaps, possesses a larger area of land under cultivation in proportion to its size, but the Isle of Wight is even more remarkable for the great variety and beauty of its natural scenery. The Wight, as this island was formerly called, presents several points of resemblance to Kent. It has a range of chalk hills much like the Kentish North Downs, and indeed the general geological structure of the two districts, if we include Sussex with Kent, is curiously alike. The Jutes, who showed a partiality for Kent, settled also in the Isle of Wight, and have left traces of their presence in the form of antiquities buried in the soil.

There are, of course, many points of difference. The important historical events which are associated with Kent from Roman times downward have no parallel in this island, which seems to have been frequently ravaged and spoiled by marauders who came from over the seas. On the other hand, the geology of the

# THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Isle of Wight is of first-rate importance, and justifies, it is hoped, the somewhat detailed treatment which that part of the subject receives in this volume.

## I. SITUATION, FORM, EXTENT, ETC.

The Isle of Wight is situated just off the S. coast of Hampshire opposite the coast-line which extends from Portsmouth to Hurst Castle. It is of a lozenge shape, with the four corners practically in the direction of the four cardinal points. The longer axis, in the direction nearly of E. and W., is  $22\frac{1}{4}$  miles, and the shorter, north and south, 13 miles.

The area is about  $155\frac{1}{2}$  square miles, including water, and in addition the foreshore is upwards of 9 square miles in extent.

The chief peculiarities of form, both as to superficial contour and coast-line, will be dealt with in Section II., which treats of the geology, physical features and scenery of the island, but it may be added here that the Isle of Wight is one of the largest islands round the coast of England and Wales, and is considered to form part of Hampshire, from which it is separated by the Solent and Spithead. The nearest point to the mainland is Cliff End, which is situated only a mile distant from the shingle bank upon which Hurst Castle stands. Generally speaking, however, the Solent is much wider, varying from two to four miles.

The Isle of Wight is broadly divided into



## GEOLOGY

two parts, known as East Medina, with an area of 46,137 acres; and West Medina, 45,911 acres in extent.

### II. GEOLOGY, PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SCENERY

It has long been generally recognised that the Isle of Wight is one of the best grounds in the kingdom for the study of geology. One well-known geologist has said that there "is no finer geological field in the world." The Isle of Wight is remarkable, in fact, not only for the evidence it affords of the geological structure of the S.E. of England generally, but also for many interesting and important facts peculiar to the place. It is to the latter aspect, the local geology, that these remarks will principally refer.

In this section it is proposed to deal first with the geology of the island, and afterwards with the physical geography and scenery which are intimately related to it.

One of the greatest attractions which the Isle of Wight offers to visitors is a remarkable series of coast sections showing in convenient form and in regular succession a great variety of rocks, sands, clays, etc.; and although these are matters which might be supposed to appeal primarily and solely to geologists, it will be found on enquiry that this is by no means wholly true.

As has just been remarked, the geology of

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

the Isle of Wight is intimately related to its scenery, and no one can obtain an intelligent idea of the fine series of chalk downs and steep escarpments, of the courses of the rivers, the distribution of cultivated and barren areas, and the general arrangement and order of the superficial inequalities and peculiarities, without some acquaintance with the geological structure of the island.

In this sketch it is proposed to give first a few facts about the actual strata which are visible at one point or other on the island; next to deal with the upheaval, depression and contortion of those strata; and finally to explain the superficial erosion and economic products.

*Wealden Beds.* These beds, the most ancient which are exposed in the area under consideration, are found chiefly on the southern and eastern sides of the island. The surface area in which they occur is only five square miles, but in the coast sections from Compton Bay to Atherfield, and again in Sandown Bay, they are well represented. The lowest beds of the series, as far as the Isle of Wight is concerned, are the variegated clays and sandstones near Brook Chine, a somewhat inaccessible point towards the western end of the south coast of the island. At the foot of the cliffs there is a bed of sandstone, and above are purple, deep-red and blue marls. A bed of sandstone and a gravelly band lie above these; and still higher are purple and blue marls with lighter bands containing much lignite.

## GEOLOGY

Not far from Brook Chine there has been a landslip, and the undercliff so formed is known as Roughland. There is a remarkable bed of fossil pine trees on this part of the coast which is exposed only at low water. It was noticed and described by Thomas Webster as long ago as 1811-1816, and has long been known as the Pine Raft. The explanation of so many fossil trees in a horizontal position is that they were drifted to their present situation in the same way that vast quantities of wood, etc., are brought down in modern times by the River Mississippi and deposited in its delta. Pine-cones and reptilian bones are among the fossil remains found in these beds.

The whole of the coast-line from Brook Chine to Compton Bay on one hand, and to Atherfield Point on the other, affords interesting sections of the Wealden Beds from which various fossils including reptilian bones have been procured.

In Sandown Bay, the Wealden Beds are more or less exposed in the coast-line for a distance of a mile and a half. Here also, as on the southern coast, bones of the *Iguanodon* have been found. Indeed, the occurrence of the remains of gigantic reptiles of this kind is one of the most remarkable points about the Wealden Beds.

The Wealden Beds are the older members of the lower cretaceous rocks. The upper or newer member of these lower rocks, known as the Lower Greensand, is well represented in the coast sections of the island.



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

*Lower Greensand.* This formation covers the chief part of the southern half of the Isle of Wight, and is shown in excellent sections along the sea-coast near Compton Bay, Atherfield, Shanklin, and Red Cliff in Sandown Bay. The bold hills which occur in the upper part of the valleys of the rivers Medina and Yar, and particularly the well-known eminence upon which Godshill is situated, are composed of beds of Lower Greensand.

Throughout the Isle of Wight, wherever the Lower Greensand and Gault occur together, there is at the base of the Gault a coarse and highly ferruginous grit, known as Carstone, varying in thickness from 6 feet at Compton Bay, to 12 feet near Blackgang Chine, 30 ft. near Bonchurch, and no less than 72 feet at Red Cliff between Culver Cliff and Sandown. Whether this Carstone belongs to the Lower Greensand below or the Gault above is a question upon which geologists are not agreed. The fossils contained in it, which consist of many varieties, are equally related to both the Greensand and the Gault. At the base of the Carstone at Compton Bay is a 3-inch layer of quartzite pebbles, with rolled phosphatic pebbles, fragments of wood, and cylindrical concretions.

*Gault.* This is a blue or bluish-grey clay which rests conformably on the Lower Greensand. It occurs on the sea-coast at Compton Bay, where there is a good cliff section and the outcrop crosses the island in an irregular line to



## GEOLOGY

the E.S.E., passing through Shorwell, and afterwards in a direction nearly due N. towards Carisbrooke, whence it follows an almost due eastern course to the sea-coast at Red Cliff, a little to the S. of Culver Cliff.

Another outcrop of the Gault occurs along the S. coast of the island from Blackgang to Bonchurch, where it is much hidden and confused by landslips, and also around the northern foot of the southern chalk-hills. The beds vary in thickness from a little over 100 feet to nearly 150 feet.

In some parts of England the Gault is remarkably rich in well-preserved fossils, but in the Isle of Wight the fossils are few in numbers as well as species. Here, too, the Gault is more sandy than in some other parts, and the sandy character increases towards the W. end of the island.

The Gault is locally known as the "Blue Slipper," owing to its well-known slippery character when made wet by waves on the sea-shore, and also owing to its tendency to produce landslips.

*Upper Greensand.* This consists of a series of cherts and malm rock which form conspicuous rock escarpments in the S. of the island, particularly at the Landslip between Shanklin and Ventnor, and the Undercliff between Ventnor and Blackgang. The chert contains a very large proportion of sponge spicules. There are excellent sections in Compton Bay, at Ventnor, Culver Cliff, etc., and near Gatcombe

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

and elsewhere are several old quarries where the chert beds have been dug.

*Chalk.* The Chalk which forms such a prominent feature in the S.E. of England generally is well developed in the Isle of Wight, where it forms a series of characteristic downs across the island from E. to W., as well as in the S., particularly between Shanklin and Blackgang. Well-known points of the Chalk eminences visible from the sea are at Culver Cliff, the Needles, Scratchell's Bay, and near Shanklin, Bonchurch, Ventnor, and so along to St Catherine's Downs. Some of the cliff sections are of great beauty and considerable scientific value. Those at Culver Cliff, Alum Bay, and Scratchell's Bay in particular show in an admirable way the successive bands of flint tilted at a very high angle. These flint-bands occur with remarkable regularity at intervals of a few feet.

The sections of Chalk exhibited in the cliffs at Scratchell's Bay, at the western extremity of the island, and at Culver Cliff, almost on the extreme E., afford two of the most striking objects of their kind, whilst they are amongst the finest exposures of this formation in England. No one can fail to be impressed by these vertical and apparently overhanging cliffs. This is notably the case on the E. side of Scratchell's Bay, where there is a good example of a natural arch 300 feet high. What is known as the Main Bench, near the Needles, is 416 feet above the datum level, and at this point the



SCRATCHELL'S BAY





## GEOLOGY

cliffs are vertical and descend sheer into the water. It is noteworthy that these precipitous and overhanging cliffs are formed of the Chalk-with-flints, and that wherever flintless Chalk forms the sea-cliff, a beach of chalk-blocks lies at its foot. In Alum Bay, and at various other places in the island, may be found lying on the beach well-rounded pebbles of hard Chalk.

The same hard, tough character may be noticed in the Chalk of Dorset, notably at Lulworth Cove, where the beach is mainly composed of chalk pebbles. It is believed that this hardness may be due to great pressure which the beds have undergone in the process of the folding by which the Chalk has been brought up nearly to a vertical position in the central range.

This hard quality of the Chalk doubtless has a close relation to the vertical character of the cliffs. At each end of the central range of Chalk, viz., at Culver Cliff and in the neighbourhood of the Needles, numerous caves have been hollowed out by action of the sea in those parts of the cliff where the chalk is comparatively soft.

The fossils, and, indeed, the composition of the Chalk itself, both point to a marine origin. Upon careful examination, this white limestone of varying degrees of hardness is found to be composed of minute pieces of shells, together with a fairly large proportion of foraminifera, sponge spicules, and other indications of a deep-sea bed. The larger fossils, comprising various

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

feet thick. What are known in the Isle of Wight as the Barton Beds are believed to be equivalent to the Barton Beds. These beds, which contain coal or lignite once collected for fuel, are better developed in the E. part of the island than at Alum Bay. Many beautifully preserved fossils have been found in these beds at White Cliff Bay and elsewhere.

The Headon Beds consist of many different strata of fresh-water, estuarine and marine origin, attaining a thickness of 147 feet at Headon Hill near Alum Bay, and 212 feet at White-cliff Bay. These and the Osborne Beds which overlie them, occupy a small area of the island in the neighbourhood of Cotland Bay, where they may be conveniently studied.

A little further to the W. is a district of about the same area in which the Bembridge Limestone appears on the surface. It also appears on the E. coast of the island, extending from the N. to the S. of the Foreland, near which it forms some dangerous reefs below the level of the sea. This rock has been pretty largely dug for building purposes. The fossils are of fresh-water origin, but they also comprise land shells and mammalian remains.

Above the limestone occurs a series of fresh-water, estuarine and marine clays and marls known as the Bembridge Marls. These are 120 feet thick in the E. part of the island, but are about 70 feet thick in the W. Some beds of the Bembridge Marls were clearly deposited in fresh water, but others are obviously

of marine origin. The fossils include shells, plant remains, and insects.

The Hamstead Beds occupy a large area of the surface of the northern half of the Isle of Wight. They extend, in fact, over about half the tertiary basin in the island, and extend, in a roughly triangular form, from Brading on the E. almost to Yarmouth on the W., and nearly to West Cowes on the N. They consist of a series of strata about 260 feet thick, and contain numerous fossil remains.

From the above remarks it will be obvious that the tertiary strata of the Isle of Wight is of very great importance from a geological point of view, because although its lower members are somewhat distorted and compressed by the disturbances which have produced the folding of strata which is so well shown in the cliff sections of the Isle of Wight, the upper members are well developed and present a particularly valuable sequence of strata which elucidates in a remarkable way the upper tertiary strata elsewhere.

*Pleistocene and Recent Deposits.* In various parts of the Isle of Wight there are deposits which may be conveniently grouped under the following heads:—

- i. Angular Flint Gravel of the Chalk Downs of various ages.
- ii. Plateau Gravels which were laid down before the present river and dry valleys were formed.
- iii. Gravels and Brick Earths of river-valleys.
- iv. Alluvium, Peat, Blown Sand, Tufa, Chalk



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Talus, etc., deposits which have recently been formed or are now in process of formation.

The angular flint gravel (i.) occurs on the tops of all those downs in which the chalk dips at a small angle. It is found particularly on the extensive downs between Calbourne, Chillerton, and Carisbrooke, also along the southern edge of the downs from Westover Down to near Shorwell, and on Mersley and Brading Downs.

The plateau gravels (ii.) are found in various parts of the Isle of Wight. They occur generally as small patches, separated by large valleys, but it is probable that they were never one continuous sheet, but that they represent successive stages in the process of development of the existing system of valleys. This is a point which will be dealt with subsequently under the head of Erosion. One of the most remarkable patches or outliers of this gravel in the island is that which is spread over the edges of the highly inclined chalk and greensand of St George's Down.

Other points where plateau gravel occurs are Parkhurst Forest (where the gravel is dug for economic uses), Thorness, Hampstead, Calbourne, Headon Hill, and the coast between Wootton and Bembridge.

Valley gravels and brick earths (iii.) occur in the valley of the Eastern Yar, near Wootton Creek, the Medina valley, the Western Yar, Compton Bay, etc.

Alluvium, peat, etc. (iv.) These deposits



which are now in progress do not call for special notice, but there is a rather curious bed of blown sand between Atherfield and Chale nearly 20 feet thick, which is formed of sand blown not from the sea-shore, but upwards from the face of the cliff. It is therefore really what one may call rearranged Lower Greensand.

*Disturbances, Faults, etc.* No account of the geology of the Isle of Wight would be intelligible which failed to give due prominence to the effects produced by disturbing and upheaving forces. The island lies in a district which has suffered much upheaval, and the physical features of its surface and coast-line have been largely influenced thereby. In order to understand exactly what has happened in the island itself, it may be well to glance at the contortions and disturbances of the strata of a somewhat wider area.

In the S. of England there are three great synclines or valleys of depression of strata, viz., those of London, Chichester, and the Solent. South of these depressions in regular order occur the corresponding folds or anticlinal axes of Guildford, Portsdown, and the Isle of Wight. It is noteworthy that the anticlines all have these features in common, namely, that the northern side of the arch is much steeper than the southern, and that these domes and basins, or (if the terms be preferred) valleys and ridges, run in a direction approximately parallel with the chalk escarpments of Dorset and Norfolk.

It will be understood, therefore, that there is

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

a general depression of the strata under the Solent and a corresponding elevation over the middle of the Isle of Wight. On the latter area, however, much has been removed by the forces of denudation, and some of the older beds have been laid bare in consequence. At what geological period these disturbances took place, and what was the nature of the active force which produced them, are questions of too great magnitude to discuss in this place. It will be sufficient for our purpose to consider the existing superficial character and the present watersheds. One of the most prominent physical features of the island is the range of chalk downs which form a well defined zone extending in irregular and broken lines from the Needles on the W. to Culver Cliff on the E. This line is broken by an important gap about half-way, where the valley of the Medina cuts through it.

The chief downs comprised in the range are Afton Down, Brixton Down, Galleberry Down, Bowcombe Down, Roughborough Down, Lemerston Down, Gansons Down, Gatcombe Down, Chillerton Down, St George's Down, Arreton Down, Mersley Down, Asheys Down, Brading Down, and Bembridge Down.

Another series of chalk downs runs along the southern part of the island, extending from St Catherine's Down to Shanklin Down, and including the well-marked eminence, immediately to the N. of Ventnor, known as Boniface Down. It has already been pointed out that the Isle of Wight from a geological point of view is strik-

## GEOLOGY

ingly like the Wealden district in the S.E. of England with its North and South Downs. The river system of the two districts is also similar. We find in both cases that the chalk hills are cut by river valleys. In the Isle of Wight this may seem at first sight to be somewhat mysterious, because it is clear that less obstacles would be encountered if their course were along the more level ground to the E. and W. But the fact that they do cut through the chalk hills is significant and indicates that the river courses were originally shaped before the present configuration of the surface existed.

In order to appreciate this we must look back to the time when what we may now call the Wealden area of the island was a lofty dome. Although the rivers rise in what is now the area of least elevation, the watershed really follows the axis of the anticline, that is the line of greatest upheaval in past times; whilst the main lines of drainage follow the synclinal axes.

It must be remembered that the first land to emerge from beneath the sea was that formed by the crests of the anticlinal folds, and each of these thereupon became a watershed and has so remained. The present course of the Medina, therefore, was determined by the ancient conformation of the surface, before the Wealden area was cut down by denudation. Having once found its way over what is now the chalk hill near Carisbrooke, the river has deepened its course and maintained its northern direction in spite of the fact that the surrounding surface of



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

the country, especially on the E. and W. sides, has been much lowered by a long course of denudation.

There can be no question whatever that the central range of chalk downs was once connected with the southern range, and that the beds of chalk once extended quite over the anticline in the Isle of Wight. It is also pretty clear that the streams which run into the sea in Brixton Bay were within a geologically recent period tributaries of the Western Yar, and that the streams of Shanklin Chine and Luccombe Chine were once tributaries of the Eastern Yar.

There are various local traditions which clearly point to a connection at low tide between the Hampshire coast and the Isle of Wight. For example, one legend is to the effect that the Cistercian monastery of Beaulieu was built of Binstead stone which was brought by means of carts from the island at low tides. Whether this legend was not invented in comparatively modern times is, however, open to doubt. The subject has been ably and fully treated by Mr W. Fox in *The Geologist* for December 1862 (vol. v. pp. 452-454), and the following summary of his paper will give a good general idea of what there is to be said for and against the theory.

There is not the least particle of historical evidence that gives countenance to the famous passage in Diodorus Siculus that has been interpreted by various writers as proving that, when he lived, the channel of Solent was fordable at low water.



## GEOLOGY

As the particular island of which Diodorus is speaking was one from which the miners of Cornwall were in the habit of exporting their minerals, and there is a small isle (St Michael's) on their own coast to which such minerals could easily have been conveyed, and which, in its connection with the mainland, answers pretty closely to the historian's remarks; and further, I know of no argument worth listening to why the miners of Cornwall should have transported their tin to the Isle of Wight for exportation. On all these several grounds, I think one may safely conclude that neither Diodorus, nor any other writer of note, has left any evidence whatsoever about the fordableness of the Solent within historical times.

The severance of the island was effected under very unusual circumstances, and at a very distant period.

The present channel of the Solent, being pretty nearly regularly deep and regularly broad throughout its entire length of twelve or fourteen miles, proves at once that it was not formed in the usual way of island-severing channels, that is, by gradual encroachments of the sea on the two opposite sides of a narrow neck of land. If so formed, the middle part of the channel would naturally have been both narrower and shallower than the two mouths that first admitted the tide towards it; but this is not the case. Nor are there any important indestructible obstructing rocks on either side of the channel that could account for this peculiar formation. It is to be

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

accounted for, therefore, not by the excavations of a gradually approaching sea, but by its being originally the trunk or outlet of a large river.

Again, at the western mouth of the Solent there is a large accumulation of rolled flints with which are mingled a sufficient sprinkling of fossils to show from whence the whole mass was originally transported. This accumulation forms a natural breakwater, two miles in length, one hundred yards in breadth, and many feet in thickness, extending between the mainland at Milford and a point beyond mid-channel, where Hurst Castle was erected more than three hundred years ago.

Now all this large accumulation of flints, together with another one probably much larger on the island side of the main channel, and lying under the sea, in front of Alum Bay and the Needles, are formed of drift and broken fossils from the Barton Beds; the fossils themselves plainly pointing to the formation whence the whole mass was derived.

As the annual supply of drift along the Barton Cliffs is now comparatively small, it will be evident that it must have required a period reaching far back in time to gather together such a vast accumulation of drift as we now find, and consequently the masses of drift may be regarded as visible and lasting memorials of the very high antiquity of the separation of the Isle of Wight from the mainland.

There is yet another circumstance which tends to show the very great antiquity of the

## GEOLOGY

severance of the Isle of Wight from Hampshire. This is the similarity of the vertical chalk at the Needles to the chalk on the Dorset coast, some twenty miles to the westward, and the probability that when the chain of chalk hills between these points was continuous the entire drainage of more than two counties, embracing the rivers which join the sea at Poole and Christchurch, flowed through what is now Christchurch Bay, down the Solent, and joined the sea at Spithead.

If this theory, put forward by Mr W. Fox, be correct, the Solent was, very long ago, an estuary somewhat like Southampton Water, having but one opening in the British Channel, draining an area practically as extensive as that of the Thames or the Humber. Everything goes to show, therefore, that the separation of the Isle of Wight is a geological rather than historical question.

Before dealing with the scenery for which the Isle of Wight is so justly famous, and its relation to the geology of the district, a word or two may be said on the subject of the relation of the coast-line to the geological structure.

The Needles are only parts of a long range of chalk hills which once extended westward to Dorset at a point a little to the N. of Durlleston Head, and which in an eastern direction has sufficed to maintain the long and comparatively straight line of sea-shore between Scratchell's Bay and Compton Bay. On the eastern side of the island the strength of this



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

bed in resisting the action of the sea is again shown in the prominent headland known as Culver Cliff.

It has been explained already that this durable character of the chalk may be reasonably attributed to the great compression caused in the upheaval which produced the northern downward fold of the Isle of Wight anticline.

The bold headland of the Foreland may in a similar way be referred to the hard reefs of Bembridge Limestone, and the narrow channel of the Solent between Cliffs End and Hurst Castle may be explained in a similar manner.

On some parts of the coast-line the sea has made inroads. Sir John Oglander writes in his "Memoirs":—

"The seae have infinitely eaton owre Island, witness Sandam Castell. I have spoken with divors that have played att bowles on firme ground betwene ye seae and ye Castell; manie trees weare standinge there, whose rootes I myselve have sene, and manie others."

The northern shores of the island, consisting of soft tertiary strata, have several estuaries at the mouths of the rivers in striking contrast to the other parts of the coast-line, which are practically without them.

*Economic Geology.* The following are the chief economic products of the various strata in the Isle of Wight:—

Building stone is obtained from the Upper Greensand between Blackgang and Bonchurch

## GEOLOGY

and other places, and the Bembridge Limestone, both in the neighbourhood of Bembridge and Brading, and at Binstead, but the quarries are now practically worked out.

Road metal is obtained from the angular flint gravels on St Boniface Down, from the plateau gravels on St George's Down, and from the river gravels at Horringsford.

Sand for glass-making was formerly obtained in large quantities from the Headon Hill Sands of Alum Bay. Between the years 1850 and 1855 no less than 21,984 tons of sand for this purpose were shipped to Bristol and London.

Pipe-clay and coal were also procured at one time from the Bagshot Beds at Alum Bay, but the workings have been abandoned as the quantity obtainable was found to be too small to repay the expenses involved.

Phosphatic nodules occur in various beds in the island, including the Wealden Beds, and the Lower and Upper Greensands. Those which have been collected for economic purposes from the Chloritic Marl on St Catherine's Down are nearly all casts of shells, principally of *Ammonites varians*.

Iron pyrites was, during the 18th century, collected on the sea-shore at Shanklin and the neighbourhood, and conveyed by boats to London.

Chalk is dug and mixed with clay for cement-making at one or two places, and earths suitable for brick, tile, and rough pottery making exist, and in some cases have been worked at Brixton,

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Wroxall, and Shanklin, and in the Woolwich and Reading Beds at various localities.

Alum exists in some of the beds in the island, and as early as 1579 was collected at Parkhurst Forest. In more recent times it has been manufactured from the clays in Alum Bay. In ancient times all the alum obtainable was a government monopoly, and persons were appointed to attend to the regular collection of it. Queen Elizabeth sent a mandate to Richard Worsley, the Captain of the Wight, to make enquiries on this point, and in 1561 a warrant was issued to search for "certain Oure of Alume."

Of minor productions of the rocks of the Isle of Wight it will be sufficient to mention the sands of various colours in the Alum Bay Cliffs. These are collected and arranged in patterns resembling buildings, landscapes, etc., either on cards or in small glass vessels, and sold as curiosities to visitors. Small quartz pebbles, known as "Isle of Wight diamonds," and other stones are also collected from the sea-shore and utilised for cheap jewelry.

*Scenery.* One of the most pleasant methods of obtaining a general idea of the sea-coast is by making a trip in one of the steamboats which, at frequent intervals, carry passengers round the island.

Commencing at Ryde and proceeding eastwards one sees the beautifully wooded slopes descending almost to the water's edge at Sea View, and near the oblong white building now







BRADING HARBOUR

*With Bembridge in the distance*

## SCENERY

used as a landmark for mariners, which once formed part of the tower of the ancient church of St Helens. Just beyond this are some reefs of Bembridge Limestone, upon one of which a circular fort, one of several for the defence of the Solent, is built. Near Bembridge a view of Brading Harbour, now chiefly dry land, is obtained. Culver Cliff, exhibiting a remarkable section of chalk, with numerous lines of black flint at frequent intervals, and steeply inclined towards the N., forms one of the most prominent and beautiful objects on the E. coast of the island. It can be properly and conveniently seen only from the sea. Beyond it are seen the rolling chalk downs around Brading. From this point to Ventnor one has a good opportunity of observing the beautifully coloured cliffs of Greensand, including peeps of Shanklin Chine, Luccombe Chine, and the richly wooded landslip near Bonchurch.

Behind the terraced houses of Ventnor rises the lofty eminence of Boniface Down, the upper part being often enveloped in clouds or sea-mist. From Ventnor to the chine at Blackgang the Undercliff, with its grey inland escarpment of rock and its wooded slopes, forms a feature of coast scenery which will well repay a closer inspection.

St Catherine's Point, the most southern part of the island, marks the end of the Undercliff, and from this point to Compton Bay there is a long series of cliffs of Wealden and Greensand rocks of various tints of browns, reds and greys.



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

From Compton Bay to the Needles is a fine range of chalk cliffs, culminating in the marvellous beauties of Scratchell's Bay and Alum Bay. The special features of the latter have already been described. Totland Bay lies a little to the N., and soon the Solent is entered, Hurst Castle appearing on the left hand and Cliffs End on the right. Yarmouth, with its estuary of the Western Yar, is next passed, and a long line of beautifully wooded coast extends past Hamstead and Gurnard Bay nearly to Cowes. At high water the broad mouth of the river Medina, with its background of trees, and, beyond, the charmingly placed quasi-Gothic building called Norris Castle, forms a very beautiful picture. Osborne House can be seen in the distance a little further on, and Ryde Pier, where the journey was commenced, lies about two miles further to the E.

The scenery of the interior of the island proves on careful examination to be quite as beautiful and picturesque as that on the coast leads one to expect. The chines, particularly those of Luccombe and Shanklin, are specially remarkable for their romantic and richly-wooded scenery. Blackgang Chine is bare and striking, and appeals more to the geologist than to the ordinary tourist. The Landslip and the Undercliff, however, are full of beauty, and of great interest from many points of view. The soil in the Undercliff particularly is rich, and supports a luxuriant growth of vegetation. Trees grow among the fallen rocks, and there is a



WINDY CORNER, THE UNDERCLIFF





## SCENERY

wonderful variety of wild-flowers to be seen here at various times of the year. In the Land-slip on the eastern side of Ventnor the surface of the ground is even more diversified. Fallen rocks lie about in all directions and at various angles, whilst among them and over them are endless varieties of lichens, mosses, ferns, wild-flowers, brambles, clematis, and other climbing plants. Perhaps the most characteristic features of this very charming corner of the island are the irregularity of the rocky surface, the winding character of the paths, and, above all, the inland cliff, an uneven wall of whitish rock, against which the darker masses of the rounded groups of trees and other foliage show up with striking effects.

The churches of Bonchurch, Brading, Shorwell and Godshill are situated amongst some of the very finest scenery of the island, and are surrounded by districts which have retained to a large extent their ancient features. The pond at Bonchurch and the old village at Shanklin are deservedly famous for the beauty of their surroundings.

The extensive views which may be obtained over sea and land from the tops of the chalk downs, both of the central range and in the southern part of the island, are very magnificent. The downs between the Roman villa at Morton and Nunwell, the Culver Cliffs, and the heights upon which Carisbrooke Castle stands, are familiar examples; but St Catherine's Downs, and the chalk cliffs near the Needles, afford

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

views which are in every way finer. From Gore Cliff, part of St Catherine's Downs, where the hill rises to a height of considerably over seven hundred feet above the sea, the whole of the S.W. part of the island can be seen, and the view extends far enough on a clear day to include the coasts of Hampshire, Dorset, and the Isle of Portland.

Another very charming species of scenery in the Isle of Wight is of a sylvan and rustic character, which is spread pretty extensively over the northern parts of the island, away from the beaten tract of the tourist and sightseer. The land in these districts is given up to agriculture and pasturage, but the peasants still follow their occupations in a steady old-fashioned way, which one would be inclined to associate with the eighteenth rather than the twentieth century. The result is that the island has retained many very picturesque features—old cottages, humble farm buildings, and a general appearance of tranquillity and repose.

For more detailed particulars as to the geology of the Isle of Wight, the reader may be referred to the second edition of "The Geology of the Isle of Wight" (*Memoirs of the Geological Survey*), 1809; and to "A Popular Guide to the Geology of the Isle of Wight," by M. W. Norman, 1891.

*Tides.* The following are some interesting particulars, doubtless founded upon personal observation, of the tides round the Isle of Wight, drawn up by Richard Clark, a gentleman residing at Newport, for Pennant, who

has published them in his "Journey from London to the Isle of Wight" (1801):—

"The tide at the back of the island, in the fair channel, flows and ebbs pretty near equal; but close in shore it is otherwise, and varies in different places, from different causes. In the bay called Chale-bay there is at least nine hours flood, owing to the ebb setting strong down from the coast of Sussex in a straight direction to Dunnose, and occasioning a kind of stagnation as it were, that great body of water between the south-west point called Rocky End, and the Needles, and thereby continuing the flood in this bay to the length of time before mentioned.

"The old Dutch charts, which are still in use, lay the island a little more to the north than it really is; for this reason, and that the Dutch vessels in general are bad sailors to windward, it is that more vessels of that nation than any other (in proportion to numbers) are stranded here.

"If a vessel takes the tide of ebbs in the starboard-bow (meaning the off-bow) coming up the channel, when she crosses this bay, she does not make so good a course, as she looks up for, or seems to do, by at least six or seven points, owing to the indraught. This may appear strange, even to sailors, but it is nevertheless true.

"This dangerous bay of Chale, in extent about three miles, has a very bold shore, and there is always a large swell rolling in on it; and when that swell is attended with a ground



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

sea, not even a Newfoundland dog can gain the shore, the reflux draws off with such amazing force with the returning swollen waves.

“At Spithead, and within the island, the tide flows about seven hours.

“The tide rises at the Needles between seven and eight feet, and at times flows in within the island with a velocity most astonishing. Near Hurst Castle, vessels have been known to let go their anchors, and to be run over by the tide at once down to the bottom.

“In Portsmouth harbour the tide rises about eighteen feet : at Spithead, not so much perhaps as two or three feet.

“At Southampton and Cowes it rises about fifteen or sixteen feet.

“When the tide ebbs at Spithead, or in other words runs to the westward, the sea rises very considerably in height, and continues so to do at least an hour and a half : this is owing to the ebb-current from the eastward rushing in at St Helens, and being confined within the narrow limits of the island and the opposite coast ; and it is this ebb-tide from the east which fills the harbours within the island to so much greater a height than the tide rises without, and is what the sea-faring people call the second tide.

“At full and new moon it is high-water at the Needles about nine o'clock ; at Spithead, about ten ; in Portsmouth harbour, a quarter past eleven ; at Southampton, about the same time ; at Cowes, somewhat sooner.”

# CLIMATE

## III. CLIMATE

The varieties of soil, surface and aspect in different parts of the Isle of Wight are responsible for a corresponding variation of climate. The northern coast of the island, although pleasant enough in the summer, is somewhat bleak in the winter and early spring. Ryde, however, is considered to be relaxing in the hottest parts of the summer. Newport, which lies in a low and sheltered position, is also relaxing, but the neighbouring hills, and indeed the whole range of chalk downs which stretches across the island from east to west, are remarkable for pure, fresh and invigorating air.

In the valleys between the various ranges of downs are some delightfully sheltered situations, and the ancient Romans were thoroughly familiar with them, as their buildings at Carisbrooke and Brading testify.

Throughout the island, and with every variety of wind, one gets the advantage of sea-breezes, but along the southern coast, and particularly from the Landslip to the Undercliff, the climate is of a particularly fine character and extremely valuable for invalids. Indeed, the town of Ventnor has grown up mainly in consequence of its mild, sunny climate during winter. The houses are so built as to get every advantage of the sun's warmth and light. Immediately to the north the chalk hills rise to a great height, forming an effective screen from the cold winds from that quarter and from the east. The view

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over the open sea to the south is superb, and the sea-breezes during the summer are so constant as to produce a considerably lower temperature than that of London and inland places.

The mild character of the climate in the southern part of the island is well shown by the luxuriant growth out-of-doors of comparatively delicate trees. The fuschia trees in the neighbourhood of Bonchurch Pond, the extraordinary richness of the foliage of the trees near the old church at Bonchurch, and the beauties of the Undercliff and Landslip afford the best evidence we can have on the point.

The excellent qualities of the climate of the Isle of Wight were recognised as long ago as 1676. Speed, writing in that year in "The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain," says: "The air is commended both for health and delight; whereof the first is witnessed by the long continuance of the inhabitants in the state of their bodies before they be decayed, and the other for quality gives place to no neighbouring County."

### IV. FAUNA AND FLORA

Several species of whale are recorded as having been observed in the sea close to the island, and the skeleton of one which was washed ashore in Totland Bay in 1840 is preserved in a bazaar at Blackgang Chine. The porpoise is a very common visitor, especially off Ventnor.



## FAUNA AND FLORA

The rodents found in the island are those usually found in such a district. They comprise the squirrel, dormouse, harvest-mouse, wood-mouse, brown rat, field vole, water vole, and, of course, the common hare and rabbit. Of carnivora the stoat and weasel are abundant, whilst the common seal is often to be seen off Freshwater. Insect-eating animals, such as the hedgehog, mole, and common shrew, are often found, and the pigmy shrew and the water shrew have been recorded. Four bats, namely, the greater horseshoe, long-eared, Natterer's, and whiskered bat, have been observed.

The birds of the Isle of Wight are of very great interest. The long shore-line and the lofty, rugged, and lonely cliffs, which stand up so prominently as seen from the deck of a passing steamboat, offer some of the most attractive conditions to shy and rarely seen birds, and it is not remarkable to find, therefore, that nearly all the rock-breeding species of English birds have been found to make their home either in the prominent cliffs at Culver or in the wilder escarpments in the neighbourhood of Freshwater. The pigeons of Culver Cliff have long been famous. Years ago it was pointed out that whilst they made this their home at night they flew every day for their food to the turnip fields of Oxfordshire. But probably it is not so well known that the raven still breeds at Culver Cliff as well as at Freshwater, and that the peregrine falcon annually nests at Freshwater, Culver Cliff, and in the Undercliff.

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

In addition to these more remarkable birds found in the Isle of Wight, there are also many which are common to the mainland of Hampshire and other parts of England. It is perhaps hardly necessary to give a list of these in the present place; but those who wish for further information may be recommended to consult a valuable article on the subject, by the Rev. C. A. Bury, which appeared in *The Zoologist* as long ago as 1844; "The Guide to the Isle of Wight," by the Rev. Edmund Venables, 1860; and "The Victoria History of the Counties of England: Hampshire and the Isle of Wight," vol. i., 1900.

The palmated newt has been found at Ryde and Alum Bay, and other lizards of the generally distributed species are found in the island.

Of fresh-water fishes it may be noted that the perch, the pike, and the minnow are not found in the Isle of Wight, but the ten-spined stickleback, the rudd and the tench are recorded.

The botany of the Isle of Wight is a subject of some importance. The diversified surface and the various kinds of soil found in the island have had the natural effect of encouraging a rich flora. Some of the southern parts of the island are peculiarly sheltered, and may be considered to be amongst the warmest spots in the kingdom. This is not without its effect on the vegetation. There are twenty species of plants found in the Isle of Wight which are not found on the mainland, whilst about one hundred and

## FAUNA AND FLORA

fifty mainland species are not found in the island. Aquatic plants are rare.

A few of the more remarkable or rare plants found in the island may now be noticed. On the downs near Freshwater the round-headed centaury (*Erythræa capitata*) grows in abundance. Between Freshwater and the Needles, and also at Steephill Cove, grows the purple sweet-scented stock (*Matthiola maritima*), a plant of considerable interest as being the parent of the different varieties of garden stocks. Seakale grows wild on the seashore near Calshot and at other places. The sea spleenwort (*Asplenium marinum*) and the horned sea-poppy (*Glaucium luteum*) are among the other rare plants found upon the seashore. In Parkhurst Forest, and in certain copses situated more inland, the narrow-leaved lungwort is found.

For the more particular study of the plants of the Isle of Wight botanists have divided the island into two districts, viz., north and south, the former including a large part of the interior of the island as well as the coast-line from Sea View westwards to Freshwater Gate. The southern district covers a smaller portion of the interior, and extends along the coast from Freshwater Gate eastwards to Sea View. It includes several well-known places, such as Chale, Niton, St Lawrence, Ventnor, Bonchurch, Shanklin, Sandown, Bembridge, Brading, Newchurch, Alverstone, Godshell, Wroxall, and Whitwell.

The northern district is made up of four sub-



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

districts, of which the following are brief particulars:—

1. This sub-district occupies the extreme western end of the island, and Freshwater may be considered to be its centre. It is a small district, but contains great varieties of soil, including high downs, peat, salt marsh, sand, etc., and its chief stream is the Yar. Between Freshwater and the Needles a good many plants grow along the downs just at the edge of the cliffs. The plants include *Marrubium vulgare*, *Geranium molle*, *Senecio vulgaris*, *Malva sylvestris*, *Arenaria leptoclados*, *Torilis nodosa*, *Helianthemum vulgare*, *Medicago lupulina*, *Carduus tenuiflorus*, *Sedum anglicum*, etc.

2. This sub-district lies immediately to the E. of that just described, and comprises chalk downs, tertiary clays, sandy and gravelly beaches, etc. *Calamintha sylvatica* is recorded from the wooded valley which runs up to Rowledge. About Newtown and Shalfleet, where extensive salt works were formerly carried on, there were some plants growing, such as *Chara alopecuroides*, which specially favoured the margins of the salterns, but the industry has been discontinued for some time, and such plants are either excessively rare or have died out.

3. This sub-district extends from Chale Green northwards to Cowes, including the country E. and W. of the Medina. The southern part of this area is sandy and the central part boggy; the sub-district also includes some chalk downs. Within the walls of Carisbrooke Castle no less

## FAUNA AND FLORA

than 230 distinct species of wild-plants have been noted. In the boggy parts *Osmunda regalis*, *Lastrea Thelypteris*, *Vaccinium Oxycoccos*, etc., occur.

4. The fourth sub-district lies in the N.E. part of the island, and includes a well-wooded and clayey tract of country. *Helminthia echioides* is frequently met with, and *Thalictrum flavum* was formerly found along the shores of Wootton Creek.

The southern part of the island is divided into two sub-districts, viz. :—

1. The western part of the S. coast, from Freshwater Gate to Chale, comprises a series of bays, steep chines, and slipping land. At Moortown, *Osmunda regalis* grows in some boggy ground. The Compton chalk cliffs are covered with *Matthiola incana*, and *Scirpus maritimus* is said to be almost the only coast or brackish water plant here.

2. This is the largest and most varied sub-district in the island. It is watered by the Yar, which flows into Brading Harbour. Rare plants are found in many parts, particularly Bonchurch, the Undercliff, Culver cliffs, etc.

For full lists of the plants of the Isle of Wight the reader may be referred to "The Guide to the Isle of Wight" by Rev. Edmund Venables, and to the "Victoria History : Hampshire and the Isle of Wight," vol. i.

# THE ISLE OF WIGHT

## V. POPULATION

According to the Census returns of 1911 there were 88,186 persons in the Isle of Wight, whilst in 1901 there were 82,418 persons, showing an increase on the ten years of 5768 persons. From the last published returns it appears that the municipal boroughs of Ryde and Newport had respectively a population of 10,608 and 11,154, whilst the following Urban districts had the populations indicated :—Cowes, 9635; Ventnor, 5787; Sandown, 5551; St Helens, 4982; Shanklin, 4751; and East Cowes, 4659.

A very much larger population is accommodated of course during the summer months, when the island is patronised by large numbers of visitors in search of health or pleasure or a combination of both.

No one who visits the Isle of Wight can fail to be impressed with the rural simplicity of the inhabitants in the interior parts of the island and away from the chief watering-places of the coast. Isolation from the mainland is quite sufficient to account for this, but this charming and refreshing characteristic forms, nevertheless, one of the greatest attractions to some visitors.

The pastoral simplicity of the country people has been admirably portrayed by the author of "The Annals of the Poor."

Another writer on the Isle of Wight, the Rev. Richard Warner, draws attention to the personal beauty of the inhabitants. Writing in



## COMMUNICATIONS

1795, he says: "It would be unpardonable were we to take leave of the inhabitants without noticing the most amiable part of them; the fair females of the island. The general beauty of its women has long been one of the boasts of this part of England, and anyone who possesses a taste for female charms, will readily acknowledge that the boast is neither vain nor unfounded. To what physical cause it may be ascribed is difficult to say; but certainly the girls of the island, of all ranks and descriptions, have an elegance of stature and beauty of countenance not to be observed (in the general, I mean), in any other particular district of Southern Britain."

### VI. COMMUNICATIONS

*Steamboats.* The Isle of Wight may be approached by four distinct lines of steamboats, namely, from Portsmouth and Southsea to Ryde, from Stokes Bay to Ryde, from Southampton to Cowes, and from Lymington to Yarmouth. Numerous excursion boats provide during the summer season comfortable and convenient means of visiting all the chief parts of the coast, including, in addition to the places already named, Sea View, Bembridge, Sandown, Shanklin, Ventnor, Alum Bay and Totland Bay. At frequent intervals there are also excursions from Ryde Pier round the island. This may be specially recommended as affording an excellent method

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

of obtaining a good general idea of the coast scenery.

*Coaches.* There are regular services of coaches from Ryde, Ventnor, Sandown, etc., by which the more remote parts of the country may be reached without the fatigue of walking or cycling. It may be doubted whether any other part of the kingdom is so well furnished with this delightful means of conveyance.

*Railways.* The railway system of the Isle of Wight can hardly be said to have reached mature development. The trains run at infrequent intervals and at a low rate of speed, although the fares are, by comparison with those of other railways, very expensive. The construction of the carriages points pretty obviously to an early period, and the accommodation afforded by the railway stations leaves much to be desired. It is only fair to the officials, however, to say that passengers receive every attention that can be expected.

The Isle of Wight Railway has a line between Ryde and Ventnor with a short branch from Brading to Bembridge.

The Isle of Wight Central and Freshwater, Yarmouth and Newport Railway serves such of the remaining parts of the island as have so far been provided with railway communication.

A proposal has been made to connect the Isle of Wight with the mainland by means of a railway tunnel under the Solent.

Another proposal to supplement the present railway accommodation by a system of electric

## INDUSTRIES AND PRODUCTIONS

tramways has not been as favourably received as one might reasonably expect.

### VII. INDUSTRIES AND PRODUCTIONS

John Speed, writing in "The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain," in 1676, says of the Isle of Wight: "The ground (to say nothing of the Sea, which is exceedingly full of fish) consisteth of soil very fruitful; yet the Husbandman's labour deserves to be thankfully remembered, by whose pains and industry it doth not only supply itself, but affords Corn to be carried forth to others. The Land is plenteously stored with Cattel and Grain, and breeds everywhere store of Coneys, Hares, Partridges and Pheasants; pleasant for Meadow, Pasturage and Parks; so that nothing is wanting that may suffice man. The midst yields plenty of pasture, and forage for sheep; whose wooll the Clothiers esteem the best, next unto that of Leicester and Cotswold. If you cast your eyes towards the North, it is all over garnished with Meadows, Pastures, and Woods. If towards the South-side, it lieth (in a manner) wholly bedecked with Cornfields enclosed, where at each end the Sea doth so encroach it self, that it maketh almost two Islands besides, namely Freshwater Isle, which looketh to the West; and Binbridge Isle, answering it to the East."

Some of the industries and manufactures of



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

the island are, or have been, connected with the economic geology, and are described in Section II.

From the Roman times downwards, possibly from an even earlier period, the soil in certain parts of the island has been cultivated by the farmer. The downs have for a very long time past been devoted to grazing purposes, and dairy-farming is carried on with considerable success and profit.

Sir John Oglander was the first to plant a hop garden in the Isle of Wight. This he did in 1627, and he obtained two men specially fitted for the work from Farnham. From somewhat less than an acre of ground he succeeded in getting in one year one thousand pounds weight of hops.

In 1792 Sir Richard Worsley made an attempt to cultivate vines at St Lawrence. He obtained from Brittany two species of vines, viz., the *white muscadine* and the *plant verd*. He also hired a Breton to superintend their cultivation, and altogether planted about seven hundred vines in spaces about three acres in total extent.

Fishing is another industry which is carried on round some parts of the coast of the island, but this, like many other pursuits, is doubtless capable of considerable development. The fact that visitors have to be provided for, not only during the summer, but also in Ventnor and Ryde all the year round, is quite sufficient to explain the natural apathy on the part of the

## HISTORY

native population to engage in other and possibly less remunerative occupations. Lace-making is still carried on in some parts of the island.

Brewing and similar manufactures are carried on in the principal towns, and at Cowes there is a good deal of work done in connection with yachting.

### VIII. HISTORY

The very earliest information we have about the occupants of the Isle of Wight is derived, not from written documents or inscriptions, but from the various antiquities which have been found buried beneath the soil. These remains, which afford evidence of man's presence from the palæolithic age down to the bronze age, are dealt with, in accordance with the plan of these little guide-books, under a separate heading (see IX. ANTIQUITIES).

The remains of Roman buildings, etc., are also there mentioned, because, although written history may be said to have commenced with the arrival of the Romans in Britain, we have really very little if any trustworthy written history about this island during that period. Diodorus Siculus, the historian, who mentions the place as Ictis or Vectis, clearly confuses it with St Michael's Mount in identifying it with the point where tin was exported.

For any reliable information about the Romans in the island we must therefore look to the evidence furnished by such antiquities as are from time to time brought to light.

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

The Isle of Wight is mentioned several times in the "Anglo-Saxon Chronicle," as the following extracts will show :—

An. 449. "Then came men from three tribes of Germany: from the Old-Saxons, from the Angles, from the Jutes. From the Jutes came the Kentish people and the people of Wight, that is, the tribe which now dwells in Wight, and the race among the West Saxons, Wyrtegeorn (Vortigern), king of the Britons, sought Britain, on the shore which is named Ypwines fleot; first in support of the Britons, but afterwards they fought against them."

An. 530. "In this year Cerdic and Cynric took the island of Wight, and slew many men at Wihtgarasburh (Carisbrook)."

An. 534. "In this year Cerdic, the first king of the West Saxons, died, and Cynric his son succeeded to the kingdom, and reigned on for twenty-six (twenty-seven) winters, and they gave all the island of Wight to their two nephews, Stuf and Wihtgar."

An. 661. "In this year . . . Wulfhere, son of Penda, committed ravage on Wight, and gave the people of Wight to Æthelwold, king of the South Saxons, because Wulfhere had received him at baptism. And Eoppa the mass-priest, by order of Wilfrith and king Wulfhere, first brought baptism to the people of Wight."

An. 686. "In this year Ceadwalla, and Mul, his brother, ravaged Kent and Wight."

An. 897. " . . . Then on a certain time in the same year, there came six ships to Wight,



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and did there much evil, both in Devon and elsewhere on the seashore.”

An. 1022. “In this year King Cnut went out with his ships to Wight.”

An. 1048. “In this year there was a great earthquake widely throughout England. And in the same year Sandwich and Wight were ravaged, and the best men who were there, slain.”

Some of the above statements are probably mythical, and the whole account must be received with caution. The fact is that as the Isle of Wight was situated far away from the other Teutonic colonists, its history was not recorded in minute detail, and, in attempting to reconstruct the story of this early period, it is considered better to rely upon the evidence afforded by archæological remains rather than those which are to be found in these imperfect and doubtful records (see IX. ANTIQUITIES).

A valuable contribution to the “Victoria History of the Counties of England” (Hampshire, vol. i.) from an able pen, deals with the history of the Isle of Wight during the Anglo-Saxon period. In this article, Mr Reginald Smith writes that it is “more than a guess that the Jutes occupied at first the sparsely populated northern half of the island and avoided conflict with the natives, though in course of time the Britons, losing the veneer of Roman civilisation, gradually mingled with the strangers or departed.”

In the year 661 the island was devastated and taken by Wulfhere, son of Penda, king of the

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Mercians, and the various places in the Isle of Wight named Wolverton or Woolverton, are by some supposed to have been so called in reference to this conquest, Wolverton or Woolverton being regarded as equivalent to Wulfhere's Town. The island was subsequently surrendered to Ethelwold, king of Sussex.

In the year 686 the Wight was reunited to Wessex by Ceadwalla, who, after having concealed himself in the forests of Chiltern and Anderida, captured Wessex and Sussex. Again the island shook off the unwelcome association with Wessex, and it is believed that it remained in a state of independence until the reign of Alfred, when the line of Jutish sovereigns expired in Ethelbert, son of Astulf. Then the people voluntarily placed themselves under the dominion of Edward the Elder, Alfred's son and successor, and continued to be a part of the realm of England until the Norman Conquest.

William I. gave the Isle of Wight to William Fitz-Osborne, who in turn divided the best of it between his followers, the Azors and Sturs, after endowing his newly-founded abbey of Lyra, in Normandy, with the tithes of his demesne lands in the island, and the churches of Arreton, Buccombe, Freshwater, Godshell, Niton and Whippingham. The chief part of these churches were probably built and endowed by Fitz-Osborne himself. In consequence of a treasonable act on the part of his son, the Isle of Wight passed by escheat to the Crown in the year 1075.

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By Henry I. the island was granted to Richard de Redvers. This lord was succeeded by his son Baldwin, who founded and endowed Quarr Abbey.

In 1293, Isabella de Fortibus, daughter of Baldwin de Redvers IV., sold the lordship to Edward I.

From this time downwards the Isle of Wight remained a Crown domain, and until 1485 was governed by wardens appointed by the king. In the first year of the reign of Henry VII. the title of "Captain of the Wight" first appears in documents. The first person who was styled "Governor" was Sir George Carey; the last was Lord Bolton.

In the year 1889, however, the title of Captain of the Isle of Wight was revived, when H.R.H. Prince Henry of Battenberg was appointed to the ancient office.

The geographical position of the Isle of Wight was specially favourable for the operations of foreign invaders and marauders in the olden time. The Jutish invasion has already been mentioned. In 787, and again in 797, the island was surprised by the Danes. In 981 the same enemies again appeared on its shores, and in 998 they seem to have been complete masters of it, and they repeatedly visited it, destroying its inhabitants and possessions by sword and fire.

For about two hundred years immediately following the Norman Conquest, however, we hear little, if at all, of invaders, but in the four-



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teenth century and after the French committed several ravages, and the inhabitants were kept in continual fears and alarms, England's increased naval power, called forth by the threatened danger of the Spanish Armada, seems to have been the first effective protection from the sea robbers, and produced a feeling of comparative safety.

Hitherto it had been the custom for the wives and children to be sent to the mainland for safety when raids or warlike operations were expected; but when greater confidence was felt, the chief families became more settled in their homes. The commencement of this period of security and prosperity is clearly indicated in the domestic architecture, and the important manor-houses of Arreton, Mottistone, Northcourt, Sheat, Yaverland, etc., belong to that period.

Many different measures for the land defence of the island have been taken from very early times.

It is held by some that traces of a prehistoric fortress can be detected on the hill now crowned by Carisbrooke Castle, but it must be confessed the evidence, after a very careful inspection, is not conclusive in the opinion of the present writer. The actual castle, of course, must have been for many centuries after the Norman Conquest a tower of great strength, but it was essentially a baronial bulwark rather than a defence against unwelcome intruders on the island shores.

What may be regarded as the first organised

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system of defence, as far as records show, belongs to the year 1295, when Edward I., in anticipation of a French invasion, appointed the Bishop of Winchester and two others Wardens of the island, definite instructions being given as to procedure in the event of the enemy appearing.

A list of the watches and beacons, drawn up in 1325, shows that there were thirteen stations in the East Medina and sixteen stations in the West Medina attended night and day, and so placed as to be able to give immediate alarm of the approach of an enemy.

In the reign of Edward III. there were 52 men-at-arms and 141 bowmen for the defence of the island. These were raised by the lords of the principal manors and the more important ecclesiastical persons. The native forces were augmented by 73 men-at-arms provided by the neighbouring counties on the mainland, and 100 bowmen and slingers from the City of London.

In the process of time the measures for defence were arranged on more methodical lines. The island was divided into districts called centones, each commanded by a centoneer, usually a leading landholder, having under him a vintoneer, or lieutenant, and, in addition to his troop of from 100 to 200 men, a number of hobblers, or watchmen mounted on hobbies or small horses, to ride from place to place and give notice of the enemy's approach.

In the year 1570 there were provided forty-

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seven boats in readiness to convey from the mainland 1344 men when required. In 1574 the number of men available in this way had been increased to 3382. Gradually the number of districts and companies of militia was increased from eleven to sixteen, the forces amounting in 1583 to 1856, and in 1625 to nearly 2000 men. In the year 1638 the watches and beacons numbered thirteen in the East Medina and twelve in the West Medina.

The only castle in the island until the latter part of the reign of Henry VIII. was that of Carisbrooke, but at that time, after an unsuccessful attempt at a French invasion, the shores were strengthened by the erection of blockhouses at Cowes, Sandown, Yarmouth and Worsley's Tower. The last having been allowed to fall into decay, was superseded by Carey's Sconce or Sharpnose Fort.

During the reign of Edward VI. and of his sister Elizabeth the island was provided with a train of artillery, and each centone had a piece of ordnance as well as a beacon.

Every parish, too, had its piece of brass ordnance which, at least in some cases, was housed in a small edifice attached to the parish church. At a general muster in 1683, twenty of these guns were brought into Carisbrooke Castle, and it is believed only one of these interesting pieces of village ordnance now remains in its native parish. This is the Brading gun, which, thanks to the care of the lord of the manor, is now preserved at Nunwell. The Calbourne gun has been



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carried to Portsmouth, where it still remains. The Brading gun-house still remains at the parish church, and there are examples of similar houses, or traces of them, at Brixton, Mottistone, and Shorwell. Full accounts of the military history of the island will be found in Worsley's "History," published in 1781, and in Rev. Richard Warner's book, entitled "The History of the Isle of Wight; Military, Ecclesiastical, Civil and Natural," which was published at Southampton in 1795.

In the fourteenth century the Isle of Wight possessed three ports, namely, La Riche (Ryde), Shamlord (Cowes) and Eremue (Yarmouth). Another ancient port was Francheville (Newtown).

Undoubtedly the two most important historical events associated with the island are the visit of Charles I. and his captivity in Carisbrooke Castle, and the residence and lamented death of the late Queen Victoria at Osborne House.

### IX. ANTIQUITIES

*Prehistoric Remains.* The prehistoric antiquities of the Isle of Wight comprise many objects which are of considerable interest, and which may be referred to the four great periods into which archæologists usually divide prehistoric times.

The following are brief descriptions of the different periods referred to and of the objects

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found in the Isle of Wight, which have been identified as belonging to them.

*Palæolithic Age.* This is probably the earliest period in the history of man of which any authentic and incontestable remains have been found. It stretches far back into the dim past, when what are now the British Islands were united with the Continent of Europe, and long before man had acquired a knowledge of metals. His tools seem to have been composed largely of flint chipped but not ground into shape, but it is probable that most of his implements of bone, wood, etc., have perished. The men of this period, however, possessed considerable skill in drawing, as is shown by certain sketches on bone and stone which have fortunately been preserved.

Palæolithic implements formed of flint have been found at Sea View between Ryde and Bembridge, at a place on the most eastern part of the island known as Foreland, and at High Down, near Freshwater.

*Neolithic Age.* This was probably separated from the preceding period by a long space of time, and by some not inconsiderable physical changes by which the British Islands were severed from the Continent. During the whole of this age, or stage of culture as it would be more proper to term it, metal (excepting gold) was unknown, but great advances were made in accurately shaping flint and stone tools, arms and ornaments by means of delicate chipping often combined with grinding. The latter process

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was sometimes carried to such an extent that all traces of the chipping were removed.

The Isle of Wight has furnished a few antiquities of this age, but it is unfortunate that the precise locality of the different discoveries has not always been noted. Celts of flint, largely shaped by grinding, have been found at Hill-yards, at Bembridge, and at another unknown place in the island. The first named was in the collection of the late Mr C. Roach Smith, F.S.A. The present writer has observed flakes and chips of flint, clearly of neolithic workmanship, between Bembridge and St Helens, and at various other parts of the island.

The most remarkable object of this period ever found in the island is unquestionably an implement of tribrachial form, having three branches radiating from the centre. The shape is considered to be unique, and the purpose for which it was designed is uncertain. According to one account, it was found at Asheys Down, but according to another story it was found at Ventnor.

On the top of Mottistone Down or Common, at an elevation of 661 feet above sea-level, stands an enormous mass of ferruginous sandstone. It is about 13 ft. high, 6 ft. 6 in. wide at its broadest side, and weighs by estimation about 30 tons. It is a roughly quadrangular pillar, and its upright position in the ground can hardly be due to natural causes. That it has at some time been placed into its present position by the agency of man seems pretty certain, but for



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what purpose this was done is not quite so clear. Several people are inclined to regard it as part of an ancient sepulchral chamber resembling the megalithic structures of Kent, and if so it probably belongs to the latter end of the neolithic age.

The presence of some large barrows in the same neighbourhood certainly tends to strengthen this view. The name of the place in which the stone stands, Mottistone, is noteworthy, and believers in the identification of the sites of ancient folk-moots by means of the study of modern place names will find here a most excellent illustration of their theories.

*Bronze Age.* The introduction of metal into these islands marks a very decided advance in civilisation. Bronze and the art of working it appear to have been brought to us by that branch of the great Celtic family known as Goidels. They also brought with them improved methods of pottery making and building, and there are reasons for thinking that they mingled peaceably with the neolithic inhabitants, advancing over the country on commercial rather than military lines.

The Isle of Wight has furnished important, if not very numerous, proofs of the presence of bronze-age people. The first to be mentioned is a hoard of bronze objects discovered at Arreton Down about the year 1735, whilst another seems to have been found at the same place about two years later. The objects, which consisted of flanged celts, tanged spear-heads, a socketed dagger, etc., were found arranged in an

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orderly fashion, from which it may be inferred that the deposit represented the hidden store of a bronze founder. Judging from the general characteristics of the objects, it may be considered that they belong to the middle part of the bronze age, as early and late forms were not present.

In 1853 twelve tumuli on Ashey Down were excavated, when human bones, animal bones, charcoal in abundance, one or two earthen pots, and a small knife-dagger of bronze were discovered. It is probable that the examination was not very thoroughly carried out—at least this is suggested by the published account of the discovery—but enough was found to justify us in placing these interments in the earlier part of the bronze age.

At Brading two or three articles formed of bronze, and clearly belonging to the bronze age, have been recently found. The objects, which are in private possession, comprise a spear-head and portions of a spiral armlet or bracelet.

A bronze knife-dagger was found at Shalcombe Down in 1816; a bronze celt at Binstead; a bronze palstave at Billingham House, 5 m. S. of Newport; another bronze palstave at Watching Well, in Parkhurst Forest; and a bronze-age urn of rough earthenware was found at Wroxall, near Ventnor, in 1825 or 1826, and presented to the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford.

*Prehistoric Iron Age.* The latest age of the prehistoric period is known to modern antiquaries as the prehistoric iron age. It followed the

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bronze age and immediately preceded the appearance of the Romans on our shores. As far as the Isle of Wight is concerned, we do not seem to have any evidence from archæological remains of this interesting period. It is quite possible, of course, that the inhabitants of this little island were still in the bronze-age state of civilisation when the Romans settled in Britain; but it should also be remembered that articles made of iron are peculiarly liable to decay, and this may explain why no such antiquities have been found in the island.

A few ancient British coins are recorded, some of which may possibly be of a period earlier than the Roman occupation of Britain. At Chale and Sandown uninscribed gold coins have been found; at Ryde a gold coin of Verica; and at Yarmouth a hoard of British coins, some seven or eight in number, all of gold, and all apparently uninscribed.

Interesting as these discoveries unquestionably are, and particularly so as showing the diffusion of population here in early times, one cannot help regretting that we have no actual remains of antiquities which may be referred without question to the prehistoric age of iron.

*Roman Remains.* Until about the middle of the 19th century archæologists held the opinion, based on negative evidence, that the Isle of Wight was little, if at all, inhabited by the Romans. Sir Henry Englefield in 1816 wrote: "Of the Romans there is not a single vestige in the island." Other writers came to the same



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conclusion, and their opinions furnish a remarkable illustration of the rashness of speculating upon the supposed absence of antiquarian remains, because subsequent discoveries and researches have established the fact that this island was as much inhabited by the Romans and as much influenced by Roman art and Roman civilisation as any part of Hampshire.

A word or two may be said here as to the Roman name of this island. Diodorus Siculus speaks of an island called Ictis or Vectis divided from the mainland by a channel so shallow that carts could cross it at low water. It was here, he says, that the Cornish tin merchants brought their tin, which was conveyed thence by boats to Gaul.

It is now generally believed that that famous historian confounded the Isle of Wight with St Michael's Mount in Cornwall, where the exportation of tin was undoubtedly carried on. The name Ictis or Vectis, however, is generally supposed to have been that by which the Romans knew the Isle of Wight.

The first important piece of evidence proving the Roman occupation of the Isle of Wight was furnished in 1859, when the foundations of a Roman house, with its tessellated floors and arrangements for heating the place in the Roman manner, were found at Carisbrooke. (For further details see under Carisbrooke in the second part of this volume.) The coins found pointed from A.D. 250-350 as the probable period when the house was occupied.

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This is a point of considerable interest, as, although the Isle of Wight was brought into subjection to the Romans in the reign of Claudius by Vespasian, in A.D. 43, it is only towards the close of the third century that Vectis is again mentioned. From this it seems probable that, although the Romans conquered the Isle of Wight in the first century, they did not settle in it to any extent. This view is supported by the discoveries made in more recent years at Morton, near Brading. (For further details see under BRADING.)

The remains of this house, which are described in the local advertisements as the most perfect Roman remains in the south of England, are certainly very curious, although they cannot for a moment be compared with the Bignor villa in Sussex, or the town at Silchester in Hampshire. The most important features are the elaborate mosaic pavements, including a curious picture of Orpheus charming the wild beasts. Into this composition a monkey is introduced.

The artistic character of the pavements points pretty clearly to a late period of the Roman occupation. It may be considered to be practically contemporary with the Roman house at Carisbrooke, except that it was probably built a little earlier, and occupied to a date as late as the end of the fourth century.

The following are brief particulars of other sites in the island where traces of Roman occupation or Roman antiquities have been found :—

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*Brading Church.* Several Roman bonding tiles built into the walls of this church may be taken to be indications of a Roman building in the vicinity.

*Centurion's Copse, Brading.* Here, in a charmingly-placed situation,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles E. of the villa, numerous fragments of tiles and pottery, and indications of underground foundations, have been recorded, but no systematic exploration has yet been made.

*Comby Farm, Arreton.* At this farm, situated on the northern slope of Arreton Downs, are, or in Mr C. Roach Smith's time were, traces of the foundations of two Roman buildings. Samian (probably pseudo-Samian) and other pottery was also found.

*Newport.* Numerous Roman coins, extending from Claudius I. to Valens, have been found here, and in 1861, during the work of constructing the Newport and Cowes railway, a Roman cemetery was cut through, the excavation revealing numerous urns containing ashes and partly burnt bones. It is practically certain that there was some kind of village at Newport in Roman times, but no remains of foundations seem to have been found there.

*Clatterford.* At this place, situated a short distance further up the valley in which the Carisbrooke villa was built, flint walling and Roman tiles and pottery have been found, indication of the existence of a Roman building.

*Gurnard Bay.* In the sides of the cliff here



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foundations of a Roman house were exposed in 1864 by the action of the sea. Three rooms with tessellated pavements were excavated, and pottery (pseudo-Samian and New Forest), a bronze statuette of Mercury, coins, and other antiquities were found. Some of these antiquities are now in the Museum at Newport.

Another Roman house, containing from twelve to fourteen rooms, was situated between Brixton and Calbourne, and tiles, pottery and coins were found on the site.

It will be seen from these particulars that the Isle of Wight was at one time quite as much under the influence of Roman civilisation, and contained a Roman population quite as large as any other similar area in Britain. The pursuits carried on here were mainly, if not entirely, agricultural, and farmhouses, cottages and out-buildings, built in the Roman style, must have been fairly abundant in the island from the middle of the third century to the termination of the Roman occupation of Britain.

*Anglo-Saxon Period.* Among the Teutonic tribes who came to settle in Britain after the departure of the Romans there were three pretty well defined groups whose names and memory have been preserved by history, viz., the Saxons, the Angles, and the Jutes. Of these, the Saxons were by far the most important and powerful people, but it is supposed that the Jutes were the first to come over and take up their permanent abode on these shores. However this may be, it is certain that two

## ANTIQUITIES

hordes of Jutes came to Britain, one settling in Kent and the other in the Isle of Wight.

The original home of the Jutes was among the marshy forests and winding fiords which characterise the extreme peninsula of Denmark, a district which in the name of Jutland still preserves the memory of its ancient inhabitants. A few of the Jutes of the more southern colony in Britain took up their residence on the mainland of Hampshire as well as the Isle of Wight, but the Jutish colony does not seem to have extended beyond Hampshire and Kent. The influence of the Jutes, in fact, as a colonising force was not great.

The actual remains of the Anglo-Saxon period found in the Isle of Wight present features which are distinctly of Jutish type, showing a strong resemblance to Kentish antiquities of the same period and people.

A remarkable discovery was made in the year 1815, when some barrows on Arreton Down were opened and seven human skeletons, some iron knife-blades, spear-heads, a portion of an axe, two buckles and a comb were found. This seems to have been the earliest discovery of Anglo-Saxon antiquities in the island on record.

In 1816, barrows on Shalcombe Down and Chessel Downs were excavated and examined, and similar objects of bone and bronze, together with a pair of circular brooches of silver gilt, set with carbuncles and slices of garnet, were obtained.

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The most important discoveries, however, were made on Chessel Down in 1855 by Mr George Hillier, who has recorded the chief facts connected therewith in his "History and Antiquities of the Isle of Wight." The discoveries tended to show that the earliest interments had been made at the base of the Down, where the skeletons were nearly or quite decomposed, and presented no appearance of any manufactured article having been deposited with them. With these interments there were found three instances of urn-burial, indicating a lingering attachment for a nearly obsolete custom. Higher up the hill the contents of the graves belonged to a race of men who had become gradually wealthy and refined, but from the paucity of warlike implements, Mr Hillier inferred that the inhabitants of the island at that time enjoyed the benefits of peace.

The burials were found to be placed at depths below the surface of the ground varying from 2 ft. 6 in. to nearly 6 ft. The bodies were mostly placed from N.E. to S.W., but in four instances this position was reversed; and six skeletons were lying nearly due E. and W. Above the body, in some graves, a layer of concrete about 6 ins. thick had been placed; in other cases the chalk had been trampled or rammed in when the grave was closed. The most interesting fact of all, perhaps, is the regularity of the graves in relation to former interments, and, since the graves would only be dug at irregular times, during which marks of the disturbed soil caused by earlier burials would



## ANTIQUITIES

probably be effaced, it is extremely probable that some kind of memorial or mark was set up over each grave to mark the position of each interment.

It is of considerable interest to note that among the remains of burials at Chessel Down were some fragments of gold fabric, which are believed to be the earliest example we have in England of woven textures.

The Anglo-Saxon method of burial was of two kinds. In one case the body was cremated, and the ashes, fragments of bone, etc., which remained were placed in an urn and buried in the ground. In the other kind of burial, cremation was not employed, but the body was full dressed when placed in the grave, and arms, accoutrements, ornaments, etc., were placed in position on or around it. Most of the Isle of Wight interments of this period were of the latter class, and this circumstance accounts for the large numbers of swords, buckles, brooches, etc., found in the graves. Mr Hillier succeeded in unearthing not less than thirty-six brooches, twenty-one of which were made of silver, and the remainder were of bronze-gilt, whilst some were ornamented with niello.

Some of these brooches, of circular form, faced with silver and set with garnets on gold-foil, or with coloured glass-pastes, are strikingly like Kentish examples.

Other objects which are equally characteristic of the Jutes of Kent are spheres of crystal, set in garland-shaped mountings of silver. The

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

exact use or significance of these objects is not known, although it seems extremely likely that they were simply for personal adornment, but it is of great interest to find that several examples have been found in the Isle of Wight. Another kind of brooch of bird-like form which was found in the Isle of Wight is rare in England, and hardly ever found outside districts which are known to have once been Jutish.

*Mediæval Antiquities.* The chief ecclesiastical and domestic antiquities of the Isle of Wight will be described in detail in the latter part of the present volume, but it may be convenient to give here a word or two about the churches generally.

The churches of the Isle of Wight form a very interesting series from Anglo-Saxon times downward. A part of Arreton Church is of that period, whilst the earlier church at Bonchurch, upon the site of which the present old church stands, was also probably of equally early architecture.

The churches built and endowed by William Fitz-Osborne, and by him given to the Abbey of Lyra in Normandy, formed another important group, and include Arreton, Buccombe, Freshwater, Godshill and Whippingham. Some of these churches have been unduly "restored," and that of Buccombe has perished. Brading is an excellent example of a church of twelfth century and later architecture, and its well-chosen site on rising ground shows it off to advantage.

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The old churches at Bonchurch and St Lawrence are chiefly famous for their diminutive proportions and their beautiful surroundings.

There are many other fine churches, but the most conspicuous and convenient are of modern construction, and are not specially interesting to the tourist.

The following is a list of monumental brasses in the Isle of Wight :—

### ARRETON :—

Harry Hawles, *c.* 1430.

Inscription—Wm. Serle, 1595.

„ —Geo. Serle, *c.* 1600.

### BRADING :—

Inscription—George Oglander, 1567.

„ —Sir Wm. Oglander, 1608.

„ —Geo. Oglander, 1632.

„ —Sir John Oglander, 1655.

### CALBOURNE :—

Man in armour, *c.* 1380.

Inscription—Arthur Price, 1638.

„ —Daniel Evance, 1652.

### CARISBROOKE :—

A shield, William Keeling, 1619.

### FRESHWATER\* :—

Man in armour (Compton family), *c.* 1350.

### GODSHILL :—

Inscription—Richard Legge, 1641.

\* At Freshwater are matrices of effigies in armour and ladies under canopies.



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KINGSTON :—

Richard Mewys, 1535.

SHORWELL :—

Sir Richard Bethell (vicar), 1518.

Mrs Elizabeth Bampffield and Mrs Gertr.  
Percevall, 1619.

Elizabeth Leigh, 1621.

The ancient monastic establishments in the Isle of Wight were as follows :—

Quarr Abbey, dedicated in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Cistercian house in Binstead parish, of which there are some remains. It was founded by Baldwin, the second de Redvers, Lord of the Wight, in 1131.

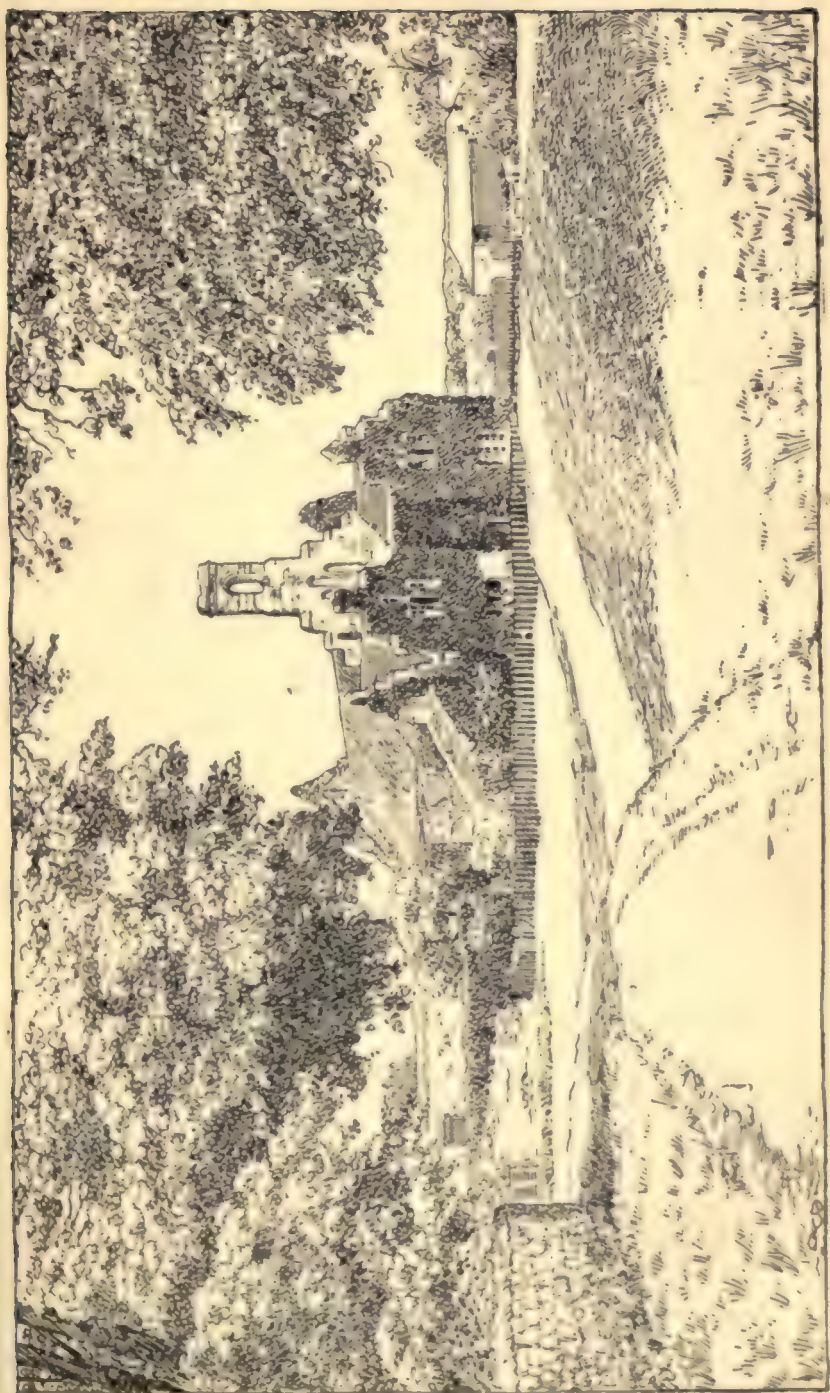
The Oratory of Barton, an Augustinian house, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, was founded in the year 1275 by Thomas de Wynton. Its site is in the parish of Whippingham.

The Priory of St Helen, a small Cluniac establishment, situated on the seashore at Brading Haven, was founded about the year 1090.

The Priory of St Cross, at Newport, a cell of the Benedictine Abbey of Tiron, was founded about the year 1120.

The Priory of Carisbrooke, dedicated in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, was a cell of the Benedictine Abbey of Lyra, and was founded by Baldwin de Redvers about 1156.

The Priory of Appuldurcombe, a cell of the



QUARR ABBEY





## CELEBRATED INHABITANTS

Benedictine Abbey of Montebourg, was founded about the year 1100.

### X. CELEBRATED INHABITANTS

The list of eminent men who have been born in the island is curiously meagre. Thomas Arnold, the famous head-master of Rugby, born at East Cowes in 1795, and Charles Roach Smith, F.S.A., born at Languard Manor House, near Shanklin, in 1807, are perhaps the most prominent, and of course there have been distinguished members of some of the chief island families, notably the Oglanders and the Worsleys; but they can hardly be considered eminent men in the usual acceptation of the term. Many important people, however, have been associated with the island either by long or short residence. Charles I. and Queen Victoria are two of the names which will instantly occur to the memory, whilst the residence of Tennyson at Farringford in the parish of Freshwater, of John Sterling (made famous by Carlyle's memoir) at Bonchurch, and of the death of Princess Elizabeth at Carisbrooke, are also noteworthy features. Rev. William Adams, author of "Sacred Allegories," was a resident at Bonchurch and was there buried.

Of eminent visitors to the island it would be quite out of the question to give a bare list, and it would also be unnecessary, as they could not properly be counted as inhabitants.

## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT, ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.

MEM.—In order to avoid frequent repetition of architectural styles the following abbreviations have been adopted—

Norm. = Norman style. E.E. = Early English.  
Dec. = Decorated. Perp. = Perpendicular.

*Afton Down* (2 m. S. of Yarmouth) is an eminence near Afton about 415 feet high, commanding extensive and superb views.

ALUM BAY lies on the N. side of the W. extremity of the island and is widely celebrated for its beautifully variegated cliffs. This place, which during the summer may be conveniently reached by means of excursion steamers from West Cowes, Ryde, Southsea, Portsmouth, etc., is one of the first objects of interest and natural beauty to which a visitor should turn his attention. The trip down the Solent, with the well-wooded coast of the island on the left-hand side and the less romantic shore of Hampshire on the right, is distinctly pleasant if not particularly exciting.

When Colwell Bay and Totland Bay have opened out to the vision, and the steamboat appears to be heading direct for the Needles, a sharp turn towards the land on the left-hand side brings one suddenly in sight of a series of

## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

very brilliantly coloured cliffs, the bands of colour being arranged in almost perpendicular fashion. This is Alum Bay, at once one of the most wonderful sights of natural beauty in the kingdom and one of the most valuable geological sections in existence.

The various beds and rocks exposed in these cliffs range from the Chalk to the Headon Beds. The former beds are so highly tilted as to appear at first sight almost perpendicular, but as a matter of fact they have a very steep inclination towards the N. The newer Woolwich and Reading Beds are tilted in the same direction, and to the same extent, but at the top of the London Clay cliff there are clear indications of a fold backwards towards the N. The Lower Bagshot Sands and Clays are quite vertical. These are followed by the Bracklesham Beds and Barton Clay, both of which have a very steep northern slope rather than a perpendicular direction. The Headon Hill Sands have a slope somewhat less steep, and so the strata lie in a more and more horizontal position, until at the top of Headon Hill they are practically horizontal.

The name Alum Bay originated in the discovery of alum in small quantities in the Bagshot Beds. A species of lignite, or coal, has also been obtained here, and collected for economic purposes; but the chief value of the section is scientific. At the same time no one, whether geologist or not, can fail to be impressed by the brilliant hues of the different beds of sand, clay, etc.



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

*Alverstone* is situated  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.W. of Sandown. This is one of the ancient manors of the island, of which it is recorded, the Saxon possessor Tovi was allowed possession at the Conquest. There was a free chapel here founded by the Strangeways. The place is noted for its botanical riches. A tradition associates Isabella de Fortibus, Lady of the Wight, with this place, it being believed that this lady had a hunting lodge here.

The Lord Chief Justice, who has a residence here, takes his title from this place.

*Alvington* is the name of an ancient manor of the Isle of Wight in which Newport is situated. It was from Alvington Down, an eminence commanding extensive scenery, that Charles I., when Prince, viewed the island in 1618. The view from Alvington Down extends over the remains of Parkhurst Forest.

*Apes Down*, an eminence situated between Carisbrooke and Calbourne.

*Appleford* is a hamlet in the parish of Godshill. There is an ancient house here which has been much altered by the restoring architect.

*Appley*, an estate near Ryde. There is a picturesque embattled tower here close to the seashore. The mansion is said to have been built by David Boyce, a notorious smuggler.

APPULDURCOMBE is a manor in the parish of Godshill, situated  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.W. of Ventnor. The origin of the name has excited some interest among those who have written about the Isle of

## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

Wight and various fanciful explanations have been suggested, but the simplest and most probable is one which identifies it with Appuldre Cwm = the valley of the apple trees.

Although it does not form one of the parishes of the island, Appuldurcombe was mentioned in a charter of the early part of the twelfth century. In that document Hugo, Prior of Appuldurcombe, appears as witness. There was belonging to the Norman Abbey of Montebourg, in the diocese of Coutances, a priory or cell here, founded about the year 1100, which possessed valuable lands in Sandford Week and Appuldurcombe, and the Prior of Appuldurcombe held about the same relation to Montebourg as the Prior of Carisbrooke did to the Abbey of Lyra.

Along with other alien priories this was suppressed by Henry V.

For upwards of three hundred years this place was held by the Worsley family, one of the most celebrated of whom was Sir Richard Worsley, knighted by James I., and a great friend of Sir John Oglander of Nunwell.

The earlier house, with which, it is believed, the remains of the Priory were incorporated, consisted of a main building, mostly taken up by the great hall, with two projecting wings enclosing a court with a chapel on the north side. This house was entirely demolished in 1710, and the present house built of freestone with Portland dressings, with its well-proportioned rooms and effective colonnade, was erected in its stead, the work having been

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

commenced by Sir Robert Worsley and finished by Sir Richard.

In many ways Appuldurcombe was one of the chief seats in the island, and its collection of paintings and sculpture was of more than local celebrity. The following account is condensed from that given by Pennant in his "Journey from London to the Isle of Wight" (1801).

"The house of Appuldorcombe, long the residence of the Worsleys, is about a mile from Godshill. The situation is truly fine, on the plain of a delicious park, in the midst of an amphitheatre of smooth and verdant hills, ornamented with beeches of a great size, and venerable oaks that cover the side of the noble slope rising behind the house to a vast height, and terminating in a summit that commands a most extensive and magnificent prospect. From hence are seen the road of St Helens, Spithead, Portsmouth and the rising downs beyond; Bembridge Cliffs and Brading, and Freshwater Cliffs, hardly to be paralleled for their height of chalky precipice; and beyond them the Dorsetshire shore and the Isle of Portland. On one of the summits the present Baronet gratefully erected, in 1774, an obelisk in honour of his grandfather, Sir Robert, who was the founder of the present house, and who died in 1747. About a mile distant, on the summit of a rocky hill in Newchurch parish, is a ruinous castle called Cooke's Castle, which, from the house, forms an agreeable object."



## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

Sir Robert left behind him a drawing of the old mansion, which, by the print placed at page 180 of the History of the Isle, appears to have been a venerable pile. Beneath is an inscription dated 1720, beginning thus:—

“Appuldorcombe, as I found it in 1690, and of which I have not left a stone standing.” He adds the etymology, but makes *combe* derived from the Saxon, whereas it is true *British*, signifying a hollow or recess in the side of a hill; the whole word may be derived from our ancient tongue, *y pwll y dwr y cwm*, or the pool of water in the cwm or hollow of the hill.

Sir Robert began to rebuild it in 1710, but left it very much unfinished. It was completed by the present owner in a magnificent style, and with distinguished taste, and the elegant manner in which the grounds are laid out does him equal credit: on the whole, it may be ranked among the first-rate places of our country.

The manor of Appuldorcombe belonged to the Abbey of Montsburg. After various masters it fell to Sir James Worsley, of Worsley Hall, in Lancashire, by his marriage in 1511 with Anne, daughter of Sir John Leigh of More in Derbyshire, the same who is interred in Godshill. The Worsleys came in with the Conqueror, and settled in Lancashire: their great ancestor, Sir Elias de Workesley, as they were then called, took up the Cross and went into Palestine, where he fought many battles against the Infidels, and died, and was interred in the Isle of Rhodes.

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

A selection from the principal paintings, sculptures, and drawings in the house at Appuldorcombe cannot fail being acceptable; some of the former, and all of the two latter, have been collected by the present Baronet; the drawings made by an eminent artist, under his own inspection, during the years 1785, 1786, and 1787, passed in Italy, Spain, Greece, Egypt, Asia Minor, and Tartary. The collection is made with judgment and at a very liberal expense, and with an indefatigable industry hardly to be paralleled. Sir Richard freighted a ship, at his own cost, to export himself and suite from place to place as he found it convenient, and kept some excellent artists in his train during the whole expedition. The drawings of places taken on the several spots are very numerous, and (of the kind) the finest I have ever seen, particularly the large ones of Athens, Alexandria, Troy, Constantinople, the Pyramids, etc.

The two great landscapes in the Eating-parlour, by Francesco Zuccarelli, are indisputably the finest pictures he ever made. They are beautiful in the extreme, and, as far as art can mimic nature, complete. The room is large and lofty; but these stately pictures occupy the whole space at the top and bottom of it. That at the north end is a view of the Veronese mountains, with the river Adige; and was painted in the year 1744, for the late Mr Hoare of Stourhead in Wiltshire.

Its companion is a view in Italy, and a proper

## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

one in every respect. In this room there are three other pictures by the same master; that over the chimney is admirably well-painted; there are also two sweet landscapes by Berghem in the same room.

In the Athenian room hang two very large and very fine coloured drawings of Athens, taken on the spot in the year 1785.

The picture over the chimney in the Colonnade-room, by Tintoretto, in his best manner, is very capital, representing the consecration of a Bishop, with the portrait of Paul III. who officiates. The figures are large as life. In the same room, among others, are the following pictures, viz. :—

A portrait, on a thick pannel, of Henry VIII. by Holbein, which Mr Walpole thought was one of the best of that King; and is probably original, as it was presented by that monarch to Sir James Worsley, then Governor of the Isle of Wight, after a visit he made him at Appuldorcombe-park.

A three-quarters picture of a woman in a great ruff called Queen Elizabeth, in the robes of a Chancellor of Oxford; it came from the Palace at Kensington: be it of whom it may, 'tis certainly a curious picture, but has no character of Queen Elizabeth's countenance. It seems a Flemish portrait, and very much resembling the print Mr Bull has got of Isabella, wife of Albert, Archduke of Austria; or perhaps it may be Queen Mary, by Sir Anthony More, who was sent



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

over to paint her picture : it resembles her a great deal.

A half-length of Roxalana, a Venetian, in the Georgian dress. After having lived several years with Soliman II., he married her, and sent to the Doge of Venice for a painter to make her portrait. Gentili Bellino was despatched to Constantinople, and painted this picture there. She died in 1561.

The portrait of Hobbes of Malmesbury, by Vandyke ; a fine picture.

The Duke of Suffolk, and the Queen Dowager of France, widow of Louis XII., and afterwards married to the Duke of Suffolk. At the bottom of the picture are the well-known lines :—

“Cloth or gold do not despise,” etc.

It is a small picture on panel, and is supposed to have been painted by John de Mabuse.

A portrait of Sir Henry Neville, on pannel. He was Ambassador from Queen Elizabeth to the Court of France, and father to Lady Worsley, wife of Sir Richard Worsley, Governor of the Isle of Wight in the same reign, by Cornelius Jansen. The portrait of the above Lady Worsley, by Cornelius Jansen, also hangs up in the same room.

A head of the Earl of Southampton by Vandyke.

A very fine picture of the Annunciation, by Guercino, in his first manner, in 1629 ; it was purchased from the Confraternity of

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the Holy Cross, at Reggio. There is an original letter of Guercino's in Sir Richard Worsley's house describing the pains he had taken, and the price of the ultramarine which he had used in finishing the drapery of this picture.

In the Picture Cabinet are many good paintings, particularly those which follow:—

A view in Italy, extremely beautiful; the figures by Nicolo Poussin, and the landscape by Gaspar.

An old Joseph holding an infant Christ in his arms, thought to be a true Titian, and very fine and valuable.

The stoning of St Stephen before the gates of Jerusalem, by Dominichino; a very fine and valuable picture, in high preservation.

A head of Walter, Earl of Essex, 1572, by Fred. Zuccharo.

A beautiful head of one of the Medici family by Carlo Dolci.

A head of the infamous Countess of Somerset, by Fred Zuccharo.

A small whole-length of Philip, Earl of Pembroke, by Vandyke.

A very fine head of Pope Alexander VI. by Titian, purchased at Granada in Spain, his native country.

A head by Raphael of Ambrosio Caradosso, engraver to Pope Julius II.

A very curious small picture of Edward VI., by Holbein. He is very young and has a rattle in his hand; and at the bottom of

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the portrait are several lines, all in capitals, subscribed *Ricardi, Mori, Carmina*.

In the Vestibule is a curious antique painting in fresco, cut from the wall of a temple in Adrian's Villa, near Tivoli, representing Glaucus making love to Scylla, who is standing on the seashore. . . .

Over the chimney in the Library is a curious picture by Murillo, which represents Cleopatra applying the asp to her breast. . . .

In the same room are the picture of Philip IV. of Spain and Isabella of Bourbon, by Velasquez. . . .

In the Inner Library is a good whole-length by Sir Joshua Reynolds of the present Right Hon. Sir Richard Worsley.

In Sir Richard's dressing-room are some fine and curious drawings, taken by a very respectable artist under the Baronet's own inspection. I recollect a small drawing of the Pits where the mummies are found near Cairo . . . a large view of the ruins of the Gymnasium at Alexandria Troas in Asia Minor . . . a view of the round Temple built by the Empress of Russia at Paulowski . . . a view of the Aqueduct of Justinian, near Constantinople . . . a view of Constantinople and the harbour called the Golden Horn . . . Ruins of Hierapolis in Upper Phrygia . . . Temple at Corinth, etc.

*Sculpture.* In the principal front of the house, on each side of the entrance stands a curious antique chair of white marble: that on the right hand, called Sella Thessala . . . that



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on the left, styled *Sella Arquata*. . . . They came originally from Greece, as appears by the marble, and were dug up at Rome in the time of the celebrated antiquary *Fatonis Orsini*, who was the purchaser. . . . On the door is an elegant knocker in bronze found among the ruins of *Herculaneum* in the year 1787.

In the centre over the door leading into the Eating-room is a most beautiful fragment . . . representing *Jupiter* and *Minerva* receiving the vows and supplications of an Athenian family. . . . It appears to have been part of the frieze of the cell at the *Parthenon* at Athens designed by *Phidias*.

On the left hand in the same room is a baso-relievo, found in the Athenian *Acropolis* in 1785 : it represents a *Syren* in affliction for having been excelled by the *Muses* in singing.

In the *Colonnade-room* is an exceeding fine *Herma*, or *Term* of *Sophocles*, found among the ruins of the *Prytaneum* at Athens in 1782. On a *Scagliole* table in the same room is a good bust of *Achilles*, dug up in the *Campagna* of Rome in August 1787. On the other side of the room is a baso-relievo of a female figure. . . . On the right hand of the chimney is a *Herma* of *Alcibiades*, of the finest Greek sculpture, discovered in the ruins of the *Prytaneum* at Athens in 1785. In the centre of the room is a large and most beautiful bull in demi-relievo. . . . It is probable this bull adorned the front of some ancient temple in *Magna Græcia*, having been found near the ruins of *Crotona* about three

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

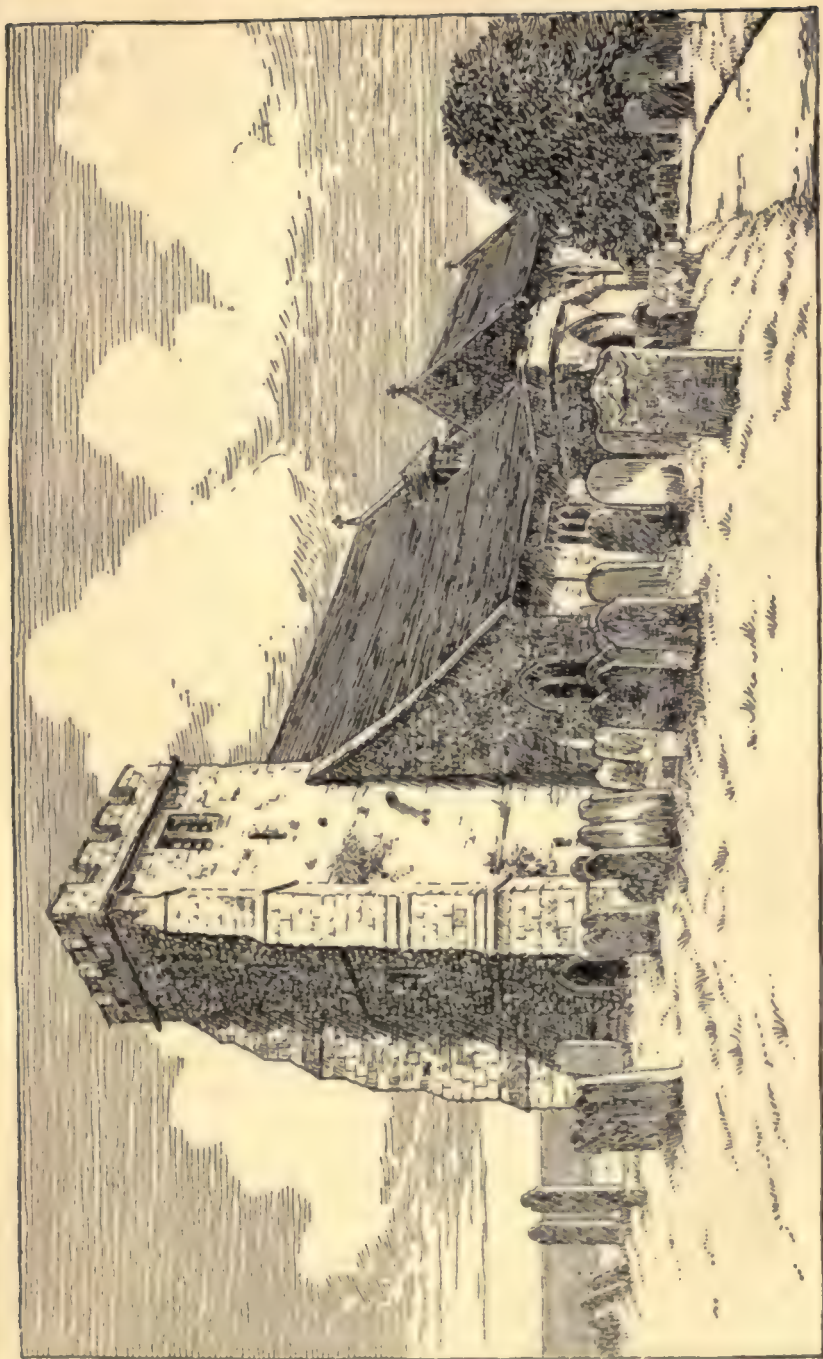
hundred years ago. . . . Upon another table stands a fine Greek bust of Venus, by Praxiteles. . . . In the same room stands the river Nile in white marble leaning with his left arm upon a Sphinx. . . . On the chimney-piece are a small antique statue of an Egyptian priest . . . a small Herma of Sappho—dug up at Athens—and a small Herma of Telesphorus from Egypt.

In the Library stands a most beautiful Greek group of Bacchus, leaning upon a Genius. Perhaps there does not exist a more perfect work of art, or any imitation of beautiful nature, more striking, even to the eye of a common observer, than this charming group, the material parts of which are in perfect good preservation.

Pennant's account, from which the above particulars of the art treasures of Appuldurcombe are drawn, is of considerable interest now, because all the beautiful paintings and pieces of statuary have been sold by auction and scattered in different directions. Appuldurcombe House has since been turned into a large school.

The Worsley family was of course intimately associated with the history of the Isle of Wight. Four of its members have at various times been Captains of the Island, and one, Sir Richard, the seventh baronet, was the author of "The History of the Isle of Wight" which was published in 1781.

The obelisk of Cornish granite, erected by Sir Richard Worsley in 1774, was struck by lightning in 1831, and considerably damaged.



ARRETON CHURCH





## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

It is a valuable land-mark for mariners at sea.

APSE is an ancient manor-house situated on the high ground between Shanklin and Newchurch, which once belonged to the priory of Christchurch, Hampshire. The house, which is of Jacobean architecture, has suffered much from restoration. It formerly belonged to the Canons of Christchurch, Hampshire. In the present dining-room, however, is an old panelled ceiling, and there is an old-fashioned garden at the back of the house.

*Apse Heath* is a beautiful sandy steppe, remarkable for its dark fir plantations and its extensive views.

ARRETON is situated  $2\frac{3}{4}$  m. S.E. of Newport, and lies at the foot of the chalk downs in a sequestered "comb," formed by the eastern spur of St George's Down. This is the most extensive parish in the island, and contains 9200 acres.

Arreton Church (St George) is a handsome building containing certain portions which date from the middle of the eleventh century. It is probable that the first church was of the usual Romanesque character, its plan being a parallelogram in shape, whilst its east end doubtless had an apsidal termination. The chief features that actually remain of that early church, however, are the central openings at the W. end of the nave, and the small semi-circular headed window in the north wall of the chancel. Some of the earliest work in the church is considered

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

to be Anglo-Saxon. About the year 1160 the N. aisle with three-pointed arches was added. Early in the following century the S. aisle was added, and long lancet lights were inserted in the W. wall.

In or about the year 1270 the E. end of the church was reconstructed, when two chancels, with a connecting arcade, were erected. The present tower was built at about the same period.

Early in the 15th century the N. aisle was altered, and roof then placed over it still remains. The spire seems to have fallen in the latter half of the 15th century, and about 1480 the upper stage of the tower was rebuilt, and the massive angle-buttresses were added. A few years later the aisle walls were heightened, and the large, square-headed windows which are still in position were inserted. The church has subsequently undergone certain unimportant architectural changes, and in 1863, and again in 1886, the building was restored.

There is a late 14th century monumental brass with a mutilated but still fine effigy to Harry Hawles, who is considered to have belonged to the De Aula family, and to have held office under Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, Lord of the Isle of Wight from 1386 to 1397. The inscription, which is curious and interesting, reads thus :—

Here is y byried under this grave  
Harry Hawles his soule god save  
longe tyme steward of the yle of Wyght  
have mcy on hym god ful of myght





ARRETON MANOR HOUSE



## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

Portions of a 13th century mural painting, perhaps representing the Last Judgment, were found, during some modern restoration, over the priest's door in the N. wall of the chancel. In the E. window is some ancient glass painted with rather pretty floral designs.

One of the most remarkable characters introduced into Legh Richmond's "Annals of the Poor" lived at Arreton, and was buried in Arreton Churchyard. She was known as "the Dairyman's Daughter."

Arreton Manor-house, which is pleasantly situated near the church, is believed to have been built by Sir Levinus Bennet in the reign of James I. It is a stone structure, and in plan approaches the H-like form with which one is familiar in Jacobean houses. A projecting porch between the two wings on the S. side appears to have been a subsequent addition to the house, and bears the date 1639. The house contains some interesting oak panelling, handsome carving representing the Offering up of Isaac, and some armorial and decorative carving.

**ARRETON DOWNS.** Roman remains consisting of pseudo-Samian and other pottery, and traces of the foundation of a building or buildings, have been discovered at Combley Farm, situated on the northern slopes of Arreton Downs.

**ASHEY DOWN** (2 m. W. of Brading) is a fine eminence, 427 feet above the sea, and commanding one of the best views to be found



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

in the Isle of Wight. The view was well described by the Rev. Legh Richmond in "The Annals of the Poor." A triangular pillar of stone was placed on this eminence in 1735 as a landmark for mariners.

BARTON, or Barton Court House, situated in the parish of Whippingham, was built early in the reign of James I., but was much altered about the middle of the 19th century, and was entirely remodelled after the manor was purchased by the late Prince Consort in 1853. The lands were afterwards added to the Osborne estate. In 1790 the chapel was still remaining and used as a wool warehouse.

In 1282 an oratory, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, was founded at Bartons by the rectors of Shalfleet and Godshill for six chaplains and a clerk, under an arch-priest, to officiate both for the living and the dead, under the rule of St Augustine.

It was ordered that the members of the oratory should all sleep in one room ; be dressed in one colour, either black or blue ; be diligent in reading and praying ; have only one mass ; and never go beyond the boundary of the oratory without leave from their superior. In 1439 this oratory was surrendered to the see of Winchester, and the lands were granted to Winchester College. Some of the buildings remained here until they were purchased by the Prince Consort in 1853, when everything was remodelled.

BEMBRIDGE is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E. of Brading.

## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

This is an entirely modern place, and it was not until the last century that there was much building here. In 1826, however, a Mr Wise, who possessed some property in the neighbourhood, improved the roads and ferry, and soon a church was erected. A large area of land adjoining Bembridge was reclaimed from the sea a few years ago by a famous building society. A portion was reclaimed by the exertions of Sir Hugh Myddelton in the time of James I.

Bembridge is a charmingly retired spot, specially suited for children and for those who desire absolute rest and seclusion from the busy life of the ordinary sea-side resorts.

BEMBRIDGE DOWN, the high ground to the W. of the Culver Cliffs, is 343 feet above the sea, and affords some extensive and beautiful views. There is a fort here mounting heavy guns, but it is invisible from the sea. Yarborough Obelisk, which stands on Bembridge Down, was erected by the Royal Yacht Squadron in memory of its founder, the first Earl of Yarborough.

BILLINGHAM once formed a part of the ancient manor of Buccombe, and is really a detached portion of the parish of Carisbrooke, being cut off from it by Gatcombe. (*See SHOREWELL.*)

*Binnel Bay* lies on the S. coast of the island,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. of Ventnor.

BINSTEAD is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. N.W. of Ryde. The church (Holy Cross) possesses an ancient

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

chancel, but the nave was removed in 1844 to make way for the present structure. There is some interesting herring-bone work in the walls of the chancel. A bell of the 15th century inscribed, "Sancta Maria ora pro nobis," supposed to have been brought from the Abbey of Quarr (*see* Quarr Abbey), is still preserved at Binstead Church. There are also some Norman carvings from the ancient church preserved in the walls of the new building. One which is placed over the entrance to the churchyard, and is locally known as the "Idol," is supposed to resemble the god Thor.

The limestone for which this place is noted has been quarried here since the time of William Rufus. This stone was used in the rebuilding of Winchester Cathedral in 1079, and again about the end of the 14th century. The quarries from which it was dug vary in depth from ten to twenty feet, and have been made without any regular plan, with the result that the surface of the ground in the district has been rendered very uneven.

Rowledge is an ecclesiastical district and village in this parish. (*See* QUARR ABBEY.)

BLACKGANG CHINE is a natural chasm on the S. coast of the island, 5 m. W. of Ventnor. Like Shanklin Chine and Luccombe Chine, the formation exposed in this chine consists mainly of Lower Greensand, but here the rocks lie bare in striking contrast with the rich vegetation which obscures but adds so much beauty to the other ravines mentioned.







## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

Those who visit Blackgang after having seen Shanklin will be much struck by this great difference, and possibly they will at first sight be somewhat disappointed. The cliffs as seen from the seashore, however, are of very great interest to geologists, whilst for those who have not geological tastes the grandeur of the scene can hardly fail to be of interest. There is exhibited in a kind of museum or bazaar at the top of the cliffs the skeleton of a gigantic whale which was washed ashore in Totland Bay in the year 1840. (*See UNDERCLIFF.*)

*Blackwater* is a hamlet with a railway station 2 m. S.E. of Newport. The adjacent downs afford some beautiful views.

BONCHURCH is situated 1 m. E. of Ventnor. The name Bonchurch is a corrupted form of Boniface, the dedication of the church being in honour of St Boniface. According to Mr P. G. Stone's "Architectural Antiquities of the Isle of Wight," a legendary account attributes the founding of the church here to foreign monks in the 8th century. It is probable that this early building may have existed until the latter part of the 11th century, when a new church was erected by Johannes de Argentine.

A good deal of the present building is probably of that period. The porch entrance door and certain windows have semi-circular heads of the usual Norman character, but many of the features, including the roof, have been renewed from time to time. There is, however, in the north wall of the chancel a perfect specimen of an



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

E.E. narrow lancet window, with deeply splayed opening.

A wall-painting was discovered on the N. wall of the nave in 1847, and although some traces of colour still remain, it is feared that no accurate copy of it was taken.

This church was last used as the parish church for public worship in 1850, since which time it has been utilised as a mortuary chapel. The churchyard contains many monuments of various kinds, that of most general interest, perhaps, being in memory of John Sterling, the friend of Thomas Carlyle, who died at Ventnor on 18th September 1844.

One of the most remarkable features about this little church, however, and wholly unconnected with its architecture, or its association with past greatness, is its extremely beautiful situation on a rising slope of ground with a wonderful wealth of trees behind and around it. It would be difficult to conceive a more charming combination of graceful forms and delicate colouring than is to be found here at various seasons of the year.

Another very beautiful spot is the pond in the village street, which, with its surrounding trees, has for many years past been one of the favourite studies of artists and photographers.

St Boniface Downs rise to a great height immediately to the N., and so thoroughly shield the village from the cold winds of the N. and E. that fuschias grow as large as trees in the open gardens of the cottages by the roadside.

## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

The Landslip near Bonchurch may be considered to be a part of the great series of landslips represented by the Undercliff. The presence of the blue clay known as gault below the upper greensand and overlying chalk is clearly the cause of these disturbances, whilst the fact that the gault has a dip towards the sea is sufficient to explain how it is that these disturbances have assumed such enormous proportions.

Generally speaking, these landslips near Bonchurch, as well as those of the Undercliff, are of very great antiquity. Indeed, they are generally considered to have occurred in pre-historic times. One fall, however, took place at Bonchurch in 1810, and the following brief account of it, written by Mr Webster in 1811, was published in Sir Henry Englefield's well-known book about the geology of the Isle of Wight:—

“I was surprised at the scene of devastation, which seemed to have been occasioned by some convulsion of nature. A considerable portion of the cliff had fallen down, strewing the whole of the ground between it and the sea with its ruins; huge masses of solid rock started up amidst heaps of smaller fragments, whilst immense quantities of loose marl, mixed with stones, and even the soil above with the wheat still growing on it, filled up the spaces between, and formed hills of rubbish which are scarcely accessible.

“Nothing had resisted the force of the falling rocks. Trees were levelled with the ground, and many lay half buried in the ruins. The

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

streams were choked up, and pools of water were formed in many places. Whatever road or path formerly existed through this place had been effaced; and with some difficulty I passed over this avalanche, which extended many hundred yards.

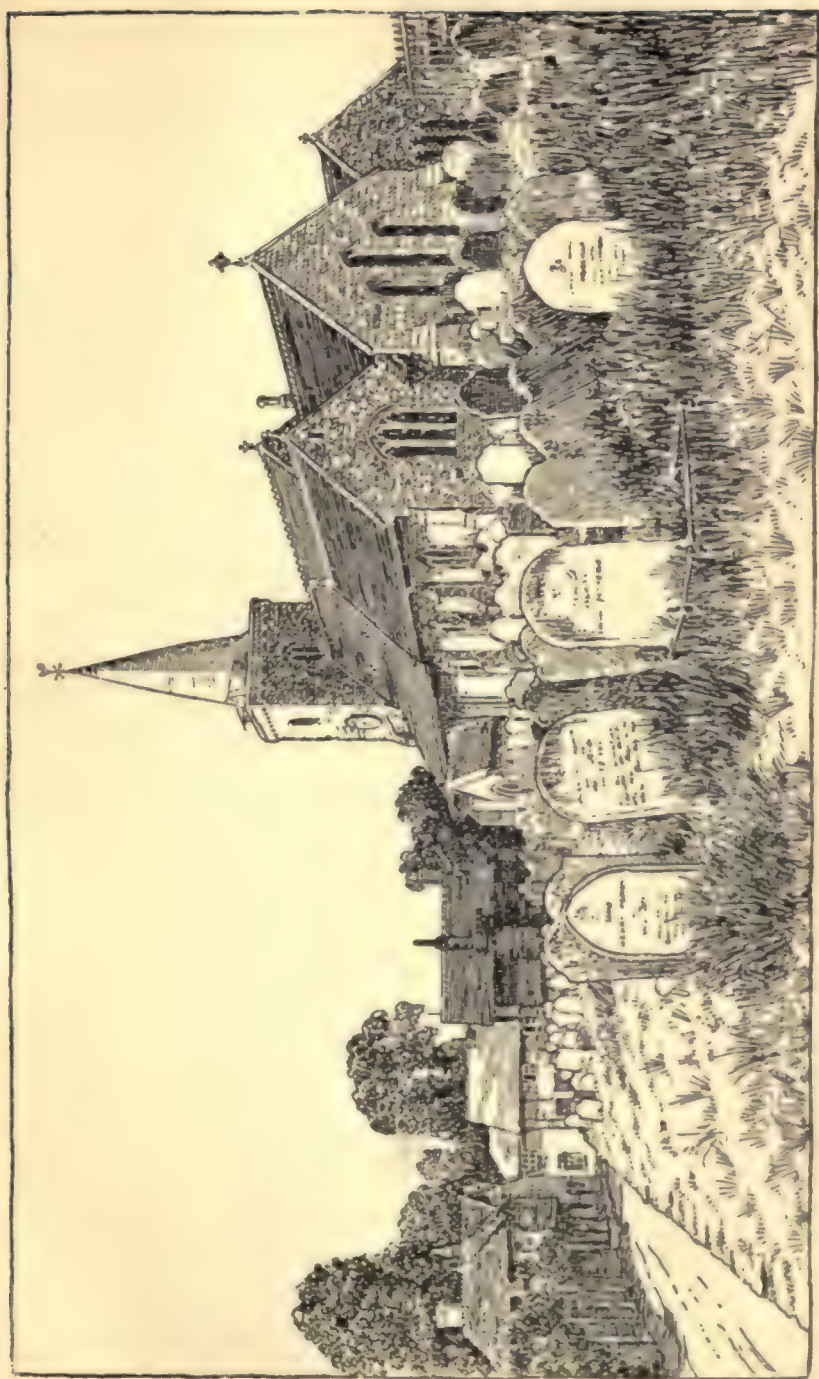
“Proceeding eastward, the whole of the soil seemed to have been moved, and was filled with chasms and bushes lying in every direction. . . . I perceived, however, on my left hand, the lofty wall of rock which belonged to the same stratum as the Undercliff.”

It is now nearly a century since this account was written, and during that time the tumbled rocks have been clothed and beautified by that rich vegetation of tree and fern and moss and lichen for which the Landslip is so widely and so justly famous.

BRADING is situated 4 m. S. of Ryde. This important parish, which once included Yaverland and Shanklin, and probably also St Helens and Bonchurch, is called in Domesday Book “Berarding,” a name which is considered to signify “broad meadow.” In the latter part of the 13th century, the name was written Brirdingges, and at one time, probably at a later date, the place was known as “The Kyngs Towne of Brading.”

From a very early period, Brading was closely connected with the manor of Whitfield, and a family who possessed the place in the time of Henry II. took their name from the manor. For a time Brading and the manor of Whitfield





BRADING CHURCH



## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

were held by the Abbey of Quarr, and in the reign of Henry III. they passed into the possession of the Crown.

According to a local tradition, a church at Brading was the most ancient religious foundation in the island, but this was probably the chapel attached to the manor of Whitfield, which served until the present church was built.

Brading Church (St Mary) contains work of about the middle of the 12th century, and was probably founded and endowed by the Azur or De Insula families. This earlier work is found in the nave, which contains five bays. It has N. and S. aisles of later date. The church also possesses N. and S. chapels, and a tower at the W. end standing on four piers and surmounted by a broached stone spire. The church, which is built of local stone (among which a few Roman bonding tiles are inserted), has work of the 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th centuries. The old gun-house, in which the parish gun was formerly kept, still remains attached to the church, and is now occupied by the bier. The actual gun is preserved at Nunwell. (*See NUNWELL.*)

The monuments in the church are of great interest. In the E. wall of the church is a portion of an early slab of stone, possibly a coffin-lid, of about the 11th or 12th century, ornamented with a cross in relief.

Inside the church is an incised slab of Purbeck stone, bearing the figure of an armed effigy and a Latin inscription to the following effect: "Here



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

lies the noble John Cherowin, esquire, during his life Constable of Porchester Castle, who died October 31st, 1441. May his soul rest in peace. Amen."

The monuments in the Oglander Chapel, on the S. side of the chancel, are specially interesting from the fact that they relate to one of the most ancient families in the island.

The earliest of the series is a plain altar-tomb to John Oglander. His son Oliver is commemorated by a somewhat rich 16th century monument, with kneeling figures and attendant children. On the E. wall of this chapel is a brass to Oliver Oglander's son George, 1564. The son of George Oglander, Sir William Oglander, is commemorated by a handsome coloured effigy, resting on a table-tomb, which stands in the S.E. corner of the chapel. There is yet another ancient monument with effigy to this family, namely, that in memory of Sir John Oglander.

On the N. of the chancel is another chapel, usually known as the De Aula Chapel. Here are the 16th century altar-tombs, bearing Tudor roses, to the memory of William De Aula and Elizabeth, his wife, quaintly inscribed :

"Jhu have merci on Wylyam Howly's sowl,  
Amen. MCCCC.XX."

"Helizabeth, hys Wyf."

The prosperity of Brading in the Middle Ages may be ascribed to its important harbour, but this has disappeared as a consequence of modifications of the coast-line. Along the

## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

course of Brading Haven, which is now dry land, a small railway runs between Brading and Bembridge.

Brading, which was an ancient borough by prescription and by early charter, was incorporated, or its former rights and privileges were confirmed, by a charter from Edward VI. The government of the borough was vested in a senior and junior bailiff, thirteen jurats, and officers. It is stated that Brading had the right of returning members to Parliament, but in consequence of the expense incidental to the exercise of this right, the custom was abandoned in later times. It had been the custom to pay each representative fourpence a day.

The corporation of Brading became extinct in 1886. The ancient corporate seal, which still remains, is circular in form, and bears the device of a single Tudor rose and the legend: "The Kyngs Towne of Brading."

The old Town Hall of Brading stands almost close to the church, and in it are preserved the parish stocks with five holes, and the bull-ring, a heavy mass of iron to which is fixed a ring. Bull-baiting was formerly a recognised and favourite form of popular amusement.

"Little Jane's Cottage" is one of the sights of the place, and her grave in the churchyard is much visited by tourists. Little Jane was one of the characters made famous by Rev. Legh Richmond in his work, "Annals of the Poor."

The Roman villa discovered at Morton, in the parish of Brading, in or soon after 1879, is

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

unquestionably the most important of the Romano-British remains in the Isle of Wight. The site, which is about a mile and a half to the S. of the village, is marked by several low black sheds, which might at first sight be supposed to be those belonging to a farm. These buildings are really coverings to protect the mosaic pavements from the effects of the weather. They are open every day except Sundays, the charge of admission being sixpence on Mondays and one shilling on other days; children half price. The illustrated guide-book sold on the premises is one shilling. The Roman bonding-tiles built into the walls of Brading Church, and the evident remains of Roman buildings at Centurion's Copse, near Brading, were sufficient to show that the place was of some importance in Roman times, but when the earth was removed from the foundations at Morton, the mosaic pavements revealed came as a great surprise to the archæological world. It was not so long ago that doubts were entertained as to whether the island was really occupied by the Romans. That doubt had been dispelled by the discovery of the Roman foundations at Carisbrooke; but the Morton mosaics exceeded everybody's expectations.

Mr F. Haverfield, F.S.A., speaking of this building, says, "The mosaics which adorn its floors are extensive, curious and elaborate. . . . The Brading mosaics are elaborate and ambitious; let us add that their execution does not wholly lack spirit. But as artistic achievements they





THE STOCKS, BRADING



## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

are not successful. They must unquestionably be ranked beneath the best specimens of mosaics found in England and abroad."

The plan of this important building comprises three groups of apartments situated on the N., W., and S. sides of a large courtyard measuring 185 feet each way.

The residential parts of the house, which consisted of twelve rooms and a hall fifty feet long, were situated on the W. side of the courtyard, and it is here that the mosaic floors were found. The floor of this hall or corridor is furnished with a tessellated pavement on which is represented Orpheus seated, wearing a red Phrygian cap and playing a lyre. It is, of course, an attempt to depict Orpheus charming the wild beasts, and it appears from the mosaic that the music attracts a monkey with a red cap, a fox, a peacock, and a coote. Although several other Orpheus pavements have been found in England, the monkey occurs only in this. It is interesting to note here that the subject portrayed in the pavement was one which was much favoured by the early Christians.

The largest room of the house (marked Chamber No. XII. in the guide-book) is of irregular shape, measuring nearly 40 feet in length and 15 feet 6 inches wide at the eastern end and 19 feet wide at the western end. The pavements on the floor of this room are of great archæological importance. That in the western part of the apartment measures 13 feet 6 inches by 13 feet 10 inches. It is divided



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

into compartments edged with guilloche ornament executed in tesselie of black, white and red colours. It is clear that there was once a central circular medallion, but this is nearly all destroyed. Oblong panels containing mythological subjects have been arranged on each of the four sides, whilst each corner has been ornamented with a quadrant in which are busts symbolical of the four seasons. Three of these remain, that representing Winter being particularly well preserved, but the figure of Spring has been destroyed. There are several details of costume, etc., in these figures worthy of careful study, and it is a matter for regret that so much has been destroyed.

In the eastern part of the room lies another even more remarkable pavement. The centre is occupied by a picture of the head of Medusa in a lozenge-shaped compartment. Four compartments arranged at each of the four sides of this lozenge each contain a male and a female figure of a pastoral character. The precise meaning of the various groups is, however, not clearly apparent. One subject perhaps illustrates Ceres offering the fruits of the earth to Triptolemus. At the eastern end of the apartment is a pavement showing a spirited group of tritons. During the work of uncovering this floor a good many fragments of pottery and worked stones were found, and much of the brilliantly-coloured plaster which had formerly decorated the walls was discovered face downwards on the floor

## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

One of the rooms (Chamber 15) on the northern side of the courtyard was provided with a hypocaust, by means of which the whole floor and walls could be very effectually warmed. The various other floors found and the low walls by which they are surrounded are open to inspection, and a very interesting collection of objects found on the site has been arranged near the entrance.

These objects, which are too numerous for a detailed description here, comprise pottery of Samian, Upchurch, Durobrivian and New Forest wares; iron, bronze, glass and bone objects; and a good many coins ranging in date from A.D. 81 to 423.

BRADING HARBOUR, situated between Bembridge and St Helens, and at a distance of about a mile and a half to the N.E. of Brading, was formerly of much greater extent than now. Originally, of course, the harbour, and a broad creek in continuation of it, extended quite to Brading. Old maps and pictures, indeed, show that it reached much further, extending to Yaverland, and making that part of the country almost an independent island. But although the water extended so far, it was, generally speaking, shallow and tidal, and navigation was only practicable in the regular stream of the river Yar, and, even then, probably only during certain tidal conditions.

Attempts were repeatedly made to reclaim the swampy parts of Brading Harbour, and in the time of James I. partial success attended the

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

efforts of Sir Hugh Myddelton. In 1878, however, further works were successfully carried out by the Liberator Building Society, and about 650 acres of land were recovered, a bank more than a mile in length having been constructed across the harbour.

Brading, or Bembridge Harbour is a famous centre for yachting. A considerable part of it has been reclaimed in recent years. (*See pp. 84, 85.*)

*Bridge Court*, an old house about half a mile to the S.W. of Godshill, is an excellent, although small, example of a yeoman's house of the early part of the 17th century. The porch was probably added in 1688 by Lancelot Coleman.

BRIXTON (also written BRIGHSTONE) is situated on the S.W. coast of the island, 6 m. S.W. of Newport. This parish formerly was part of the manor of Calbourne.

The church of St Mary was built towards the end of the 12th century. When originally erected it probably had chancel, nave, and north and south aisles, but little of the original work remains, as the main part has been subsequently rebuilt. There are traces of 13th century work, and considerable portions of 14th and 15th century architecture in the tower. The south aisle was widened and rebuilt in the 16th century. A niche, probably intended to receive a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and traces of the stairs leading to the rood-loft are worthy of notice. There is an interesting entry in the parish registers for the year 1568 relating to the



## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

ringing of the Sanctus Bell at that date. An old gun-house, which abutted on the north wall of the church, was pulled down in or about 1840. In 1852 the church underwent restoration.

Limerston is a hamlet in this parish. There is a little farmhouse here of Jacobean date. It was evidently an important manor in earlier times, and was held in the 12th century by a family who took their name from it, and were known as De Lymersi or Lymmerston.

Towards the middle of the 13th century the lord of this manor founded and endowed an oratory for black canons, with a warden and three canons to officiate for the living and the dead under the rule of St Augustine.

Limerston was for a time in the possession of the Tichborne family, and early in the reign of Edward I. Sir Roger de Tichborne executed a deed of acquittance of all claim and title to the chapel and its chaplains in the land of Langred (Languard), given the aforesaid foundation by his uncle Geoffrey de Tichborne.

There is a curious dole left, it is said, by Isabella, the heiress of this manor in the reign of Henry I. The legend, which may possibly be fabulous, is as follows :—When she lay dying she prayed her husband to set aside for the poor as much land as would enable her to institute a dole of bread to all who came to the gates of Tichborne on every Lady Day. Sir Roger thereupon took a brand from the hearth and promised her as much land as she could encircle whilst the wood was burning. She caused

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

herself to be carried from her bed to a place still pointed out, and began creeping on her hands and knees ; and in this way she encircled, before the brand was consumed, a plot of ground twenty-three acres in extent, still known as the Crawels.

*Brook Down*, near Freshwater, an eminence nearly five hundred feet above the sea ; there are numerous ancient sepulchral barrows on these hills.

*Brooke* is situated  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. to the S.E. of Freshwater. The small church of St Mary at Brooke contains little that is of interest owing to the fact that a fire having rendered the structure unsafe, a rebuilding of the place had to be carried out in 1864. The ancient arch from the tower to the nave, however, remains. The present tower was built in 1889.

There is an important life-boat station on the coast here.

BUCCOMBE, *see* CARISBROOKE.

*Butbridge House*, situated about a mile to the north of Godshill, is a Jacobean building which has suffered a good deal from restoration and rebuilding. The house is situated on rather low ground, but it is picturesque.

CALBOURNE and NEWTON BOROUGH form a parish situated 5 m. S.W. of Newport. The church of All Saints is mentioned in the Domesday Survey, but it is supposed that it was rebuilt in the 12th century, the pointed windows in the W. wall being of that time. The S. transept or aisle is supposed to have

## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

been built by Fitz-Stur as a chapel for West-over; whilst the N. was erected for the tenants of the episcopal manor of Swainston. Considerable structural alterations were made in the 13th century. The western tower was then built, and double splayed windows were inserted in the nave walls. A little later on the chancel was practically rebuilt. There is a quaint little lintel light in the S. face of the tower of the 14th century. The parish gun, which formerly belonged to Calbourne, is now preserved at Portsmouth.

There is a very fine monumental brass wanting both the inscription and canopy, but evidently of about the year 1380. It represents a man in armour, and from the style of the work it is thought to have been executed by the same artist who made brasses now in Harrow Church and the church at Rotherfield Greys, Oxfordshire. Tradition points to this brass at Calbourne as a memorial to William Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, and although he was buried elsewhere it is suggested that this brass may have been engraved during his lifetime.

Another monumental brass of much later date, and of a distinctly curious character, commemorates Daniel Evance, described as a "Reverend, Religius, and Learned Precher." He died about 1652.

CARISBROOKE is situated 1 m. S.W. of Newport. In some respects it deserves to rank as the foremost place in the island. The natural advantages of such a site as that upon



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

which the Castle stands could hardly have been overlooked by the most primitive inhabitants, and it is quite possible, indeed it is probable, that it was utilised by prehistoric man; but in spite of much that has been written as to the prehistoric camp or entrenchment here, it must be admitted that no actual evidence of such an occupation has been discovered.

The official guide to Carisbrooke Castle takes this point for granted, whilst, as a matter of fact, it has yet to be proved. The presence of a Roman military force at this place is more than hinted at in the same publication, but this also awaits proof, and it is quite conceivable that proof may never be forthcoming, because such an eminence is not an ideal position for a Roman camp.

There seems to be no clear indication here of earlier work than that of the Norman period, when the huge mound upon which the keep is placed was thrown up and other earthworks were constructed. It is pretty certain that these important defensive works were carried out by William Fitz-Osbern, and it is equally clear that the earthworks were on the same scale of magnitude and strength as were those of Windsor, Arundel, and Rockingham. Mr W. H. St John Hope, who has pointed out the evidence for this to the present writer, is of the opinion that the earthworks enclosing the bowling green are of Norman construction, and that when the stone castle was built they were neglected because the space was not required.



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

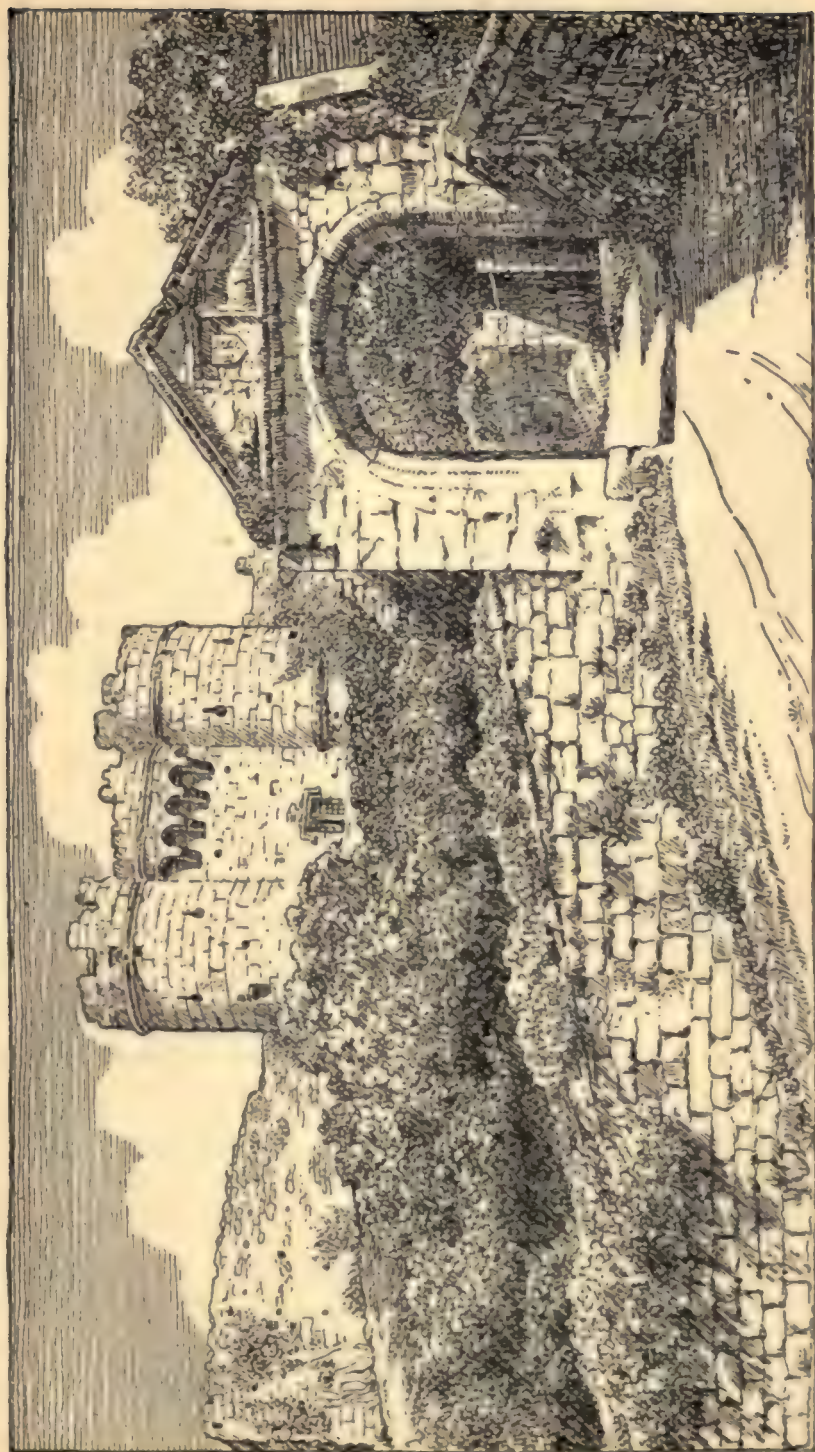
larged and two round towers were added to it. These and other works were carried out at a total cost of ten thousand pounds.

In 1377 Carisbrooke Castle was besieged by the French, but it was successfully defended. This was one of many incursions of the French for purposes of plunder.

In 1386 William de Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, was made lord of the Isle of Wight, and during his tenure of the office he remodelled the buildings which now form the deputy governor's residence. In 1467 the island was granted by Edward IV. to his brother-in-law, Anthony Wideville, Lord Scales and Nuessels. This captain of the Castle built the round towers of the gatehouse and added the present hall and staircase to the governor's residence. In 1521 Sir James Worsley was appointed captain. He was succeeded by his son, Richard Worsley. Sir George Carey was appointed captain in 1583, and he retained the post for some years. At the time when the Spanish Armada was expected, this captain turned his attention to the defences of the island. He strengthened the outworks of his castle and despatched four ships and a pinnace to assist the Lord Admiral's fleet in resisting the foe. Further work was done to the fabric of the Castle in 1597, 1601, and 1602.

By far the most interesting events in the story of Carisbrooke Castle are those associated with the last few months of the unhappy King Charles I. On November 11th, 1647, Charles





CARISBROOKE CASTLE



## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

escaped from Hampton Court and fled to the Isle of Wight in the expectation that Colonel Hammond, the governor of Carisbrooke Castle, would protect him or aid him in an attempt to escape to France ; but Colonel Hammond, who had been appointed governor only during the previous September, was a staunch supporter of the Parliamentary party, and was faithful to his trust. When Charles arrived he was conducted to the Castle by an armed force and became practically a prisoner although allowed some apparent freedom.

The king was allowed to ride about to different parts of the island until some of his friends made an unsuccessful attempt to rescue him. After that, Charles was kept within the precincts of the Castle, and provision was made for exercise and amusement by forming the bowling green and an adjacent pavilion for the king's use. On the night of 20th March 1648 Charles attempted to escape by forcing himself between the bars of his bedroom window, but escape by that means was impossible as the space between the bars was too small. On 20th May the king made another unsuccessful attempt to escape from his prison. In the September following the king was removed from Carisbrooke Castle to the Grammar School at Newport, where the interview, known as the Treaty of Newport, took place between him and the Parliamentary Commissioners. After much delay Charles was removed from the island, being lodged on 1st December at Hurst Castle (*see APPENDIX*).



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

In 1650 the children of the late Charles I. were lodged at Carisbrooke, and Princess Elizabeth died there soon after.

One of the most important of the recent events associated with this interesting fortress was the appointment in 1889 of H.R.H. Prince Henry of Battenberg to the post of governor and captain of the Isle of Wight and of constable of Carisbrooke Castle, and in 1896 the nomination of H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg as his successor.

The following are suggestions to visitors who wish to see all parts of the Castle in regular order. Begin by mounting the steps to the top on the left-hand side on entering the inner gates, and proceeding to the left along the top of the Castle walls. From these walls a beautiful view may be obtained over the surrounding country, as well as a general view of the Castle itself. At the N.E. corner is the keep, which is worth careful inspection. There is a deep well here protected by iron bars. The Well House should next be visited. Here is a magnificent well sunk in 1150, the depth of which is 161 feet. A well-wheel 15 ft. 6 ins. in diameter is placed here for drawing water, and is worked by a donkey walking inside it. The wheel was made in 1588. The ruins of the apartments occupied by Charles I. when a prisoner here should next be visited. There is a museum in the Gate House containing many objects of interest relating to the Castle, and antiquities found at various times in and around

## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

it. At the N.E. end of the Castle is the bowling green used by King Charles. Photographs and an excellent guide-book may be purchased in the Castle.

Carisbrooke Church (St Mary) is unquestionably the finest and most imposing example of ancient ecclesiastical architecture in the island, and its situation is one which adds considerably to the effect of the building. In order, however, to understand its origin, it will be necessary to go back farther into the history of Carisbrooke than the date of the oldest part of the existing building.

Among the chief followers of William the Conqueror in the expedition to England was William Fitz-Osbern. This man was not merely a follower, he was, in fact, a very influential assistant of Duke William, and is said to have been the first to advise that such an expedition should be undertaken. At the Battle of Hastings he fought on the right hand of the invading army. He acted as viceroy in William's absence. He was killed in 1071 at the Battle of Cassel, and buried at Corneilles, one of the two monasteries which he had founded in Normandy. The other Norman monastery he founded was that of Lyra. The ancient church of the manor of Buccombe, which once included what is now Carisbrooke, was given to the Abbey of Lyra, and in or soon after the middle of the 12th century a priory or cell belonging to the Benedictine Abbey of Lyra was founded at Carisbrooke as a com-

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

munity to collect the tithes and rents of lands in the Isle of Wight. Buccombe Church was pulled down and the new church at Carisbrooke was erected. This church and a priory were built on a site granted by Baldwin de Redvers out of his manor of Alvington. At this time the church at Carisbrooke served a very extensive district, including within its boundaries, Alvington, Shide, Buccombe, Newport, and Northwood.

The earliest existing architecture at Carisbrooke Church probably belongs to the latter half of the 12th century. It is probable that the monks kept to themselves the nave and chancel, cutting off the S. aisle with a screen for the use of the parishioners. There is little E.E. work except a sepulchral recess in the north wall. This is supposed to mark the site of the tomb of Prior Richard Preause who died in 1280. The handsome tower of the church was built by the monks of Sheen in the 15th century. It possesses some remarkable and grotesque carvings on its string-courses.

There is a 16th century tomb erected to the memory of Lady Margaret Wadham, aunt to Queen Jane Seymour and wife of one of the governors of the island. There are also two mutilated sepulchral slabs: one is a 12th century cover of a prior's grave, the other is a 13th century coffin-shaped slab. In the porch is a stone sarcophagus or tomb, shaped internally for the head and in fairly perfect condition. The pulpit, which is of carved wood, bears the date 1658.



## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

The chancel of the church was pulled down by Sir Francis Walsingham in the time of Queen Elizabeth, in order to prevent the unwelcome expense of keeping it in repair.

As has already been stated, there was an alien priory at Carisbrooke which possessed granges at Shete, Chale, and Northwood.

This was a Benedictine house attached to the great Abbey of Lyra in Normandy.

Several remains of this old priory existed until the year 1845, when much of the old work was pulled down. They lay to the N. of the church. The cloister seems to have been only about 47 feet square. The refectory, or frater, was probably on the N. side of the cloisters.

In the vicarage grounds at Carisbrooke, near the bottom of the valley, remains of a Roman building were discovered by Mr William Spickernell in 1859. It seems to have been an oblong-shaped house enclosing a hall, or atrium, 45 feet by 40 feet. Foundations of pillars by which the roof was supported remain. The main door led directly into this hall, which was floored with rough concrete. At the N. end were eight rooms of various sizes, six of which were floored with tesserae, and in two of the six regular mosaic pavements were inserted. The smaller of these mosaics, which is of considerable beauty, encloses a central panel containing the picture of an elegant vase of flowers, whilst water-lilies enter into the composition of six other panels. Red, white, blue, yellow, and

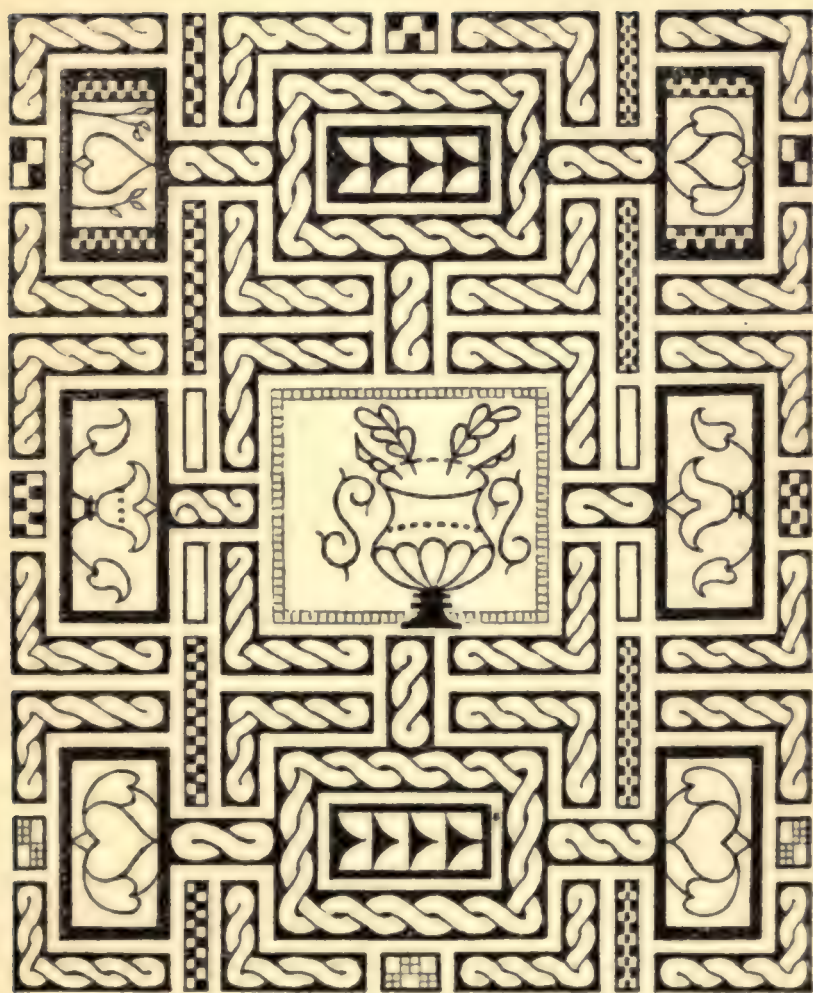
## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

black tesserae are used in the work. A furnace for heating the rooms and a curious little semi-circular bath-room are situated to the W. of the courtyard. From the various antiquities found in the course of the excavations, and particularly judging from the period to which the coins belong, it is considered that this house was occupied from about A.D. 250 to 350.

CHALE is situated on the S. coast of the island,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. of Ventnor. The church (St Andrew) contains work of the end of the 12th century in the S. arcade. The tower was built in the 15th century, and several important additions were made at about the same time. Unfortunately the building has suffered a good deal from repairs in comparatively modern times, but the tower is still a fine feature, and practically in its original state, although it was repaired in 1768. Mural paintings, representing Jacob's vision of the Angels' Ladder, formerly existed over the present vestry door in the N. wall. There are two bells, one of the 14th century, inscribed "Sancta Margareta + O"; and the other of the 17th century, inscribed "Anthony Bond made me 1628 W.B. R.T."

There is in the rectory garden a carved block of stone which formed part of the cor-belling of a stone pulpit.

In this parish is situated one of the most interesting of the ancient domestic buildings of the Isle of Wight. This house, known as Chale, but sometimes incorrectly called Chale Abbey, placed at the foot of the down, was



ROMAN · PAVEMENT ·  
AT · CARISBROOKE ·

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## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

probably built by John de Langford, early in the reign of Edward III. It consisted of a great hall with an undercroft, and an annex building at the N.W. angle. The transomed window in the N. end of the great hall still remains. Considerable alterations were made to the house by Richard Worsley in the reign of Henry VIII.

There is a fine buttressed barn of 15th century masonry on the W. side of the house.

**CHALE DOWN.** An anchorage, or hermit's cell, existed on Chale Down quite early in the 14th century. In 1312 a chapel dedicated in honour of St Catherine was in existence. Two or three years later a lighthouse was constructed, wherein a light was burnt to warn mariners of the dangerous coast. A priest was also provided to perform the double duties of chanting masses for the souls of those lost at sea, and to trim the beacon-light. It is supposed that the earlier chapel and hermitage were pulled down when the chapel or oratory was built for the regular use of the priests. The lighthouse still remains, but the chapel which was attached to it fell into decay in the 18th century.

The existing lighthouse is a stone tower of octagonal form without, and square inside. It has a roof in the form of an octagonal cone. Of its four stories the two lower were approached from the chapel, which was attached to the tower, and the two upper were stages approached by ladders. The lowest story or basement was probably a store-room.

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Mr P. G. Stone, who made some researches and excavations on the site in 1891, succeeded in making out a pretty complete plan of the chapel from the existing foundations below the surface. This was apparently a building of two stories, the lower being the living room of the chantry-priest, and the upper the chapel proper. The roof of this building had a gable at each end.

On the summit of St Catherine's Down is a pillar 72 feet in height, surmounted by a ball. This well-known landmark was erected to commemorate the visit of Alexander I., Emperor of all the Russias, in 1814. (*See ST CATHERINE'S POINT.*)

*Chale Bay* extends for 3 m. along the coast between St Catherine's Point, the most southern part of the island, and Atherfield Point. There are some important geological sections visible in the cliffs of this bay.

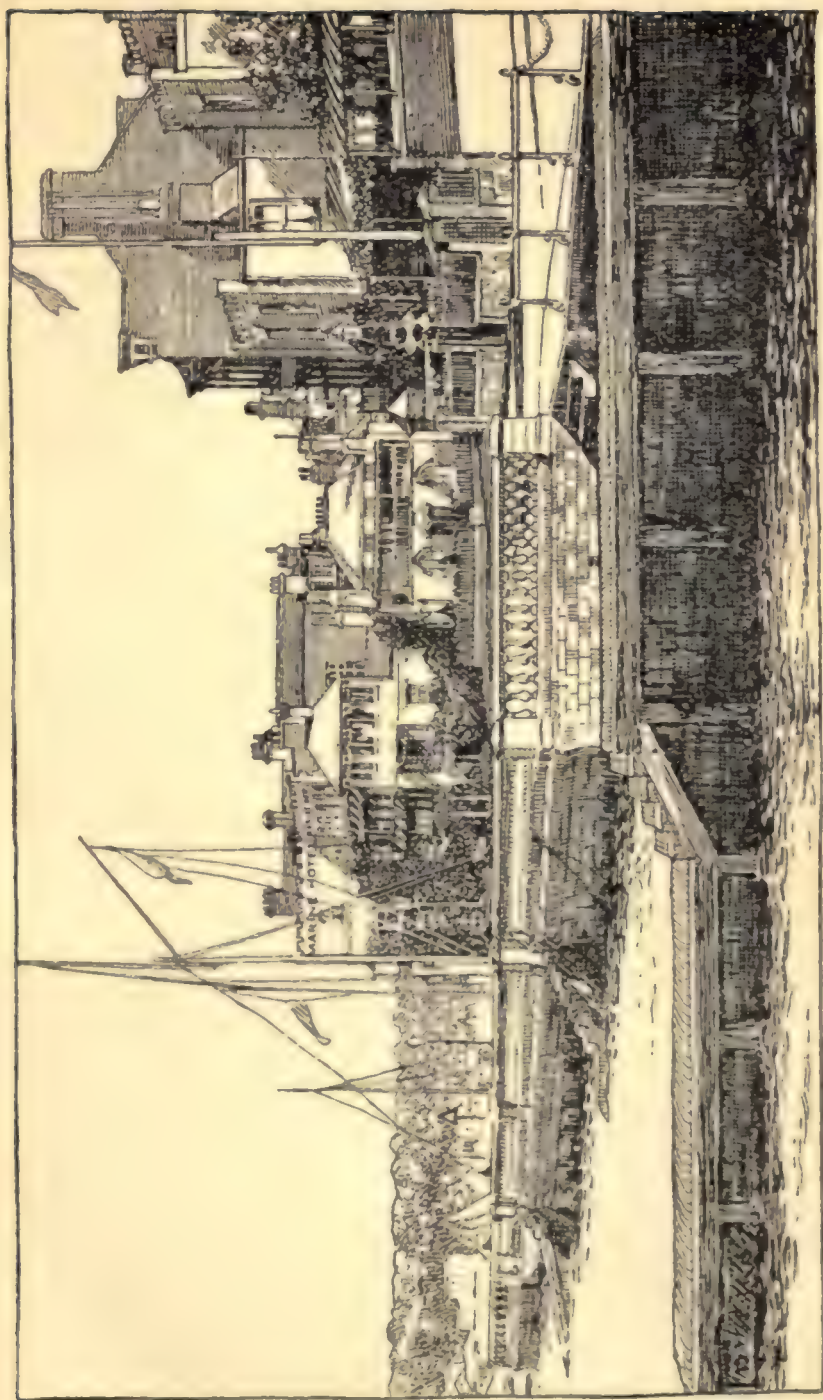
*Colwell* is a hamlet on the W. coast of the island, 2 m. S.W. of Yarmouth.

*Colwell Bay* is situated on the W. side of the island, immediately to the N. of Totlands Bay, and nearly opposite Hurst Castle.

*Compton Bay*, situated on the S.W. coast of the island, 3 m. S. of Yarmouth, extends for a length of 2 m., and is cut by two chines known as Compton Chine and Compton Grange. The cliffs here are of great geological interest.

COWES, EAST, is situated on the E. bank of the Medina estuary, at a distance of 4 m. N. of Newport.





COWES: THE PARADE



## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

COWES lies on the W. bank of the Medina estuary, 4 m. N. of Newport. The ancient name of this place was Shamlord. The name Cowes, which does not appear to have been in use until the 16th century, was given in allusion to the castle erected here in the time of Henry VIII., "Cow" being an old name for a breast-work fortification. It is probable, indeed, that there were some kind of corresponding fortifications on the E. side of the Medina. That on the W. bank was originally a circular fort containing two stories or platforms for guns. It mounted eight cannon of different sizes. There were also side works, each with three guns, and a barbican with six guns.

Cowes Castle, having been long useless for any serious defensive purpose, was sold by the Government in 1836 to the Royal Yacht Club. In adapting the site to the new requirements, nearly every fragment of the fort has been destroyed, excepting the semi-circular platform.

The church of St Mary was founded in the time of the Commonwealth, consecrated in the reign of Charles II., and after much restoration, pulled down and rebuilt in 1867.

The Royal Yacht Squadron, which is one of the chief yachting clubs of the world, has its headquarters at Cowes. The regatta, which takes place early in August, is perhaps the most famous event in the yachting world in England.

CULVER CLIFF is a prominent headland of chalk, a little to the N. of Sandown. The cliffs here are of great geological interest,



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

from the fact that they show in a very remarkable manner the curvature of the strata, the dip of the strata towards the N., and form one of the most favourite haunts of wild birds in the island. The name Culver is said to have been derived from the old English name for the dove or pigeon, large numbers of which make this their home. It is stated indeed by one writer that the wild pigeons which go in search of food as far inland as the turnip fields of Oxfordshire, return in vast numbers to Culver Cliff and Freshwater Cliff every night.

Formerly there was a famous breed of hawks at Culver Cliff, and so valuable were they in the time of Queen Elizabeth that in 1564 she issued a warrant directing Richard Worsley, the lord of the Wight, to make diligent search after some that had been stolen, and also to endeavour to discover the thief.

About forty feet from the top of Culver Cliff there is a small cavern locally known as the Hermit's Hole. This is reached by a difficult and dangerous path.

*Dunnose*, a headland on the S.E. coast, 1 m. N.E. of Ventnor, and just to the S. of Chine Head. The cliffs here exhibit some extensive, but somewhat obscured, sections of Lower Greensand.

*Egypt Point* is the most northern point of the island, near Cowes.

FRESHWATER is on the S.W. coast of the island and on the river Yar,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. of Yarmouth. The church (All Saints) contains





FARRINGFORD



## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

much more original work than one would expect from an examination of the exterior. Some of it is of the 12th century. In the 13th century the church was lengthened towards the W., another bay being added to the nave, windows were inserted in the chancel walls, and a bell-turret was placed at the W. end of the church. Some further additions to the building were carried out in the 15th century. There is at this church a fine figure of an armed knight, being part of a monumental brass which once commemorated a member of the Compton family (perhaps Adam de Compton), and, from the style of armour, may well have been made about the middle of the 14th century. The inscription is lacking, but from the breast issues a label bearing the inscription: "Pur mes petches merci prie." There are two matrices which formerly contained monumental brasses to members of the Afton family, and are believed to have been originally placed in the Afton Chantry.

Farringford, the charming residence of the late Lord Tennyson, is situated in this parish. Tennyson came to live here in 1853, and in some well-known stanzas written in the same year, invited his friend Maurice to visit him in his new home:—

"Where, far from noise and smoke of town  
I watch the twilight falling brown,  
All round a careless-ordered garden,  
Close to the ridge of a noble down."

Two years later Tennyson purchased the house

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

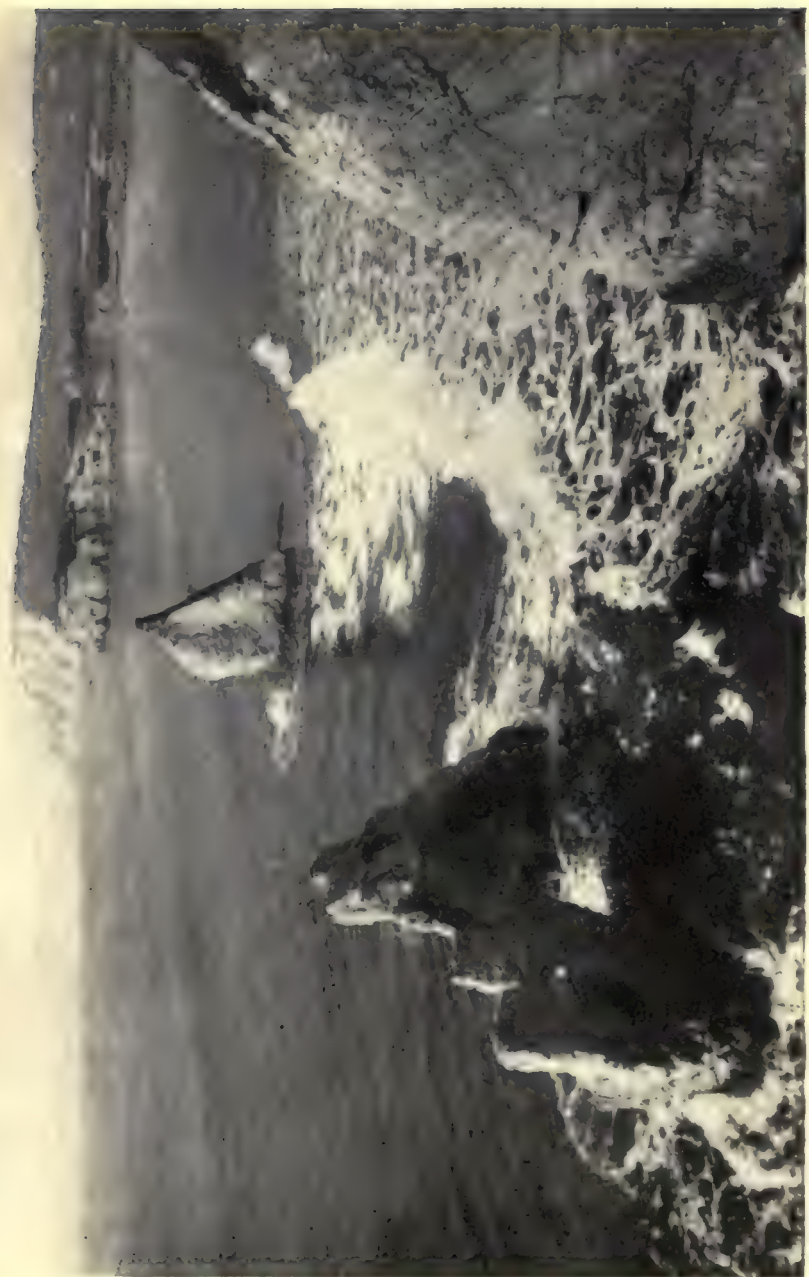
with the profits arising from the publication of "Maud," and for the rest of his life he remained for the greater part of each year at Farringford. The poet, who died in 1892, was buried in Westminster Abbey; but a large stone cross was erected to his memory on the summit of High Down, Freshwater, the "noble down" which he loved so much. Lady Tennyson, who died in 1896, lies buried in the churchyard of Freshwater.

The down near the memorial is now often known as Tennyson's Down, and the memorial cross can be seen from many miles away in different parts of the island, as well as at sea.

*Freshwater Gate* is situated in Freshwater Bay, about 1 m. S. of Freshwater. In 1790 there was only one cottage here. It is in the centre of some fine scenery, consisting mainly of chalk cliffs and downs.

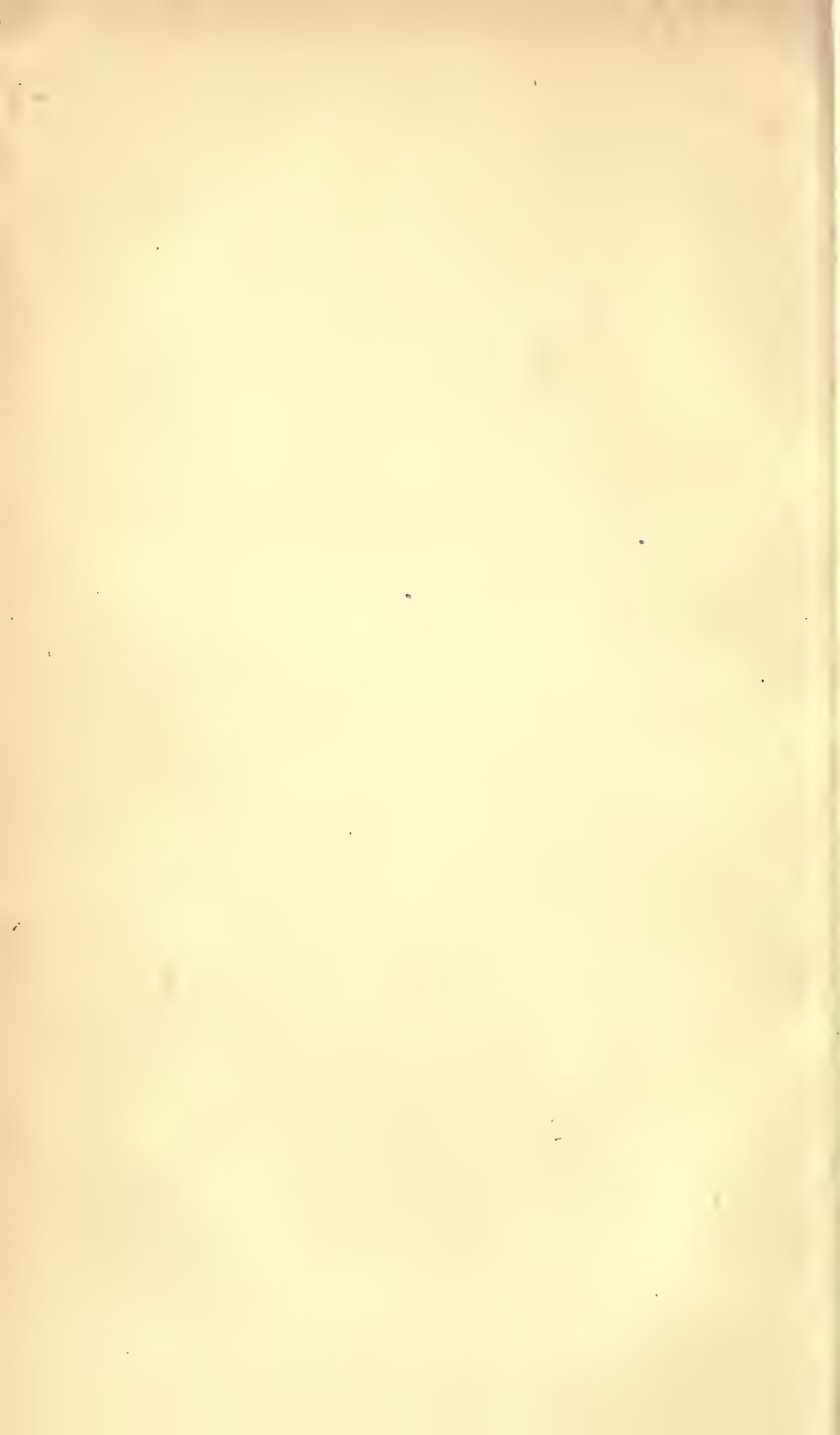
*Gatcliff* is 1 m. W. of Wroxall Railway Station. The place is interesting to geologists on account of an inlier of Upper Greensand. There were once some stone quarries here.

GATCOMBE, situated on the river Medina, 3 m. S.W. of Newport. The church (St Olave) was built in the 13th century, but little of that work remains, excepting the chancel arch and the upper part of the font. The plan of the church was quite simple, consisting of aisleless nave and chancel. The tower, copied from that at Carisbrooke Church, was erected at the W. end, towards the end of the 15th century. Some additions were made in the



FRESHWATER BAY





## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

16th century. There is in the chancel recess a curious wooden effigy of a cross-legged knight in armour, which may be either of mediæval or Jacobean workmanship, but it is fashioned in too rough a style for the question to be easily determined. The chalice belonging to this church was made as a secular cup, and bears the hall-mark of the year 1540. It was subsequently furnished with an Elizabethan cover, and presented to the church for use as a chalice.

A Jacobean communion table which was once in use has now been removed to the vestry. It is rather an interesting table, and bears on the front the inscription: "Prayse ye the Lord." The church was restored and buttresses were added in 1864-5.

GODSHILL is situated  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.E. of Newport. The name Godshill is explained by an ancient legend which is thus given in a local guide-book:—

The people of this village, having long lived in pagan darkness, were at length visited by a holy man who came and lived among them. He told the wondrous story of Divine self-sacrifice, and taught the Catholic religion of love and mercy. This so touched the hearts of the people that they cast down their blood-stained altars and acknowledged the true God. Then cried the elders of the village: "We will build a temple to His honour, where we and our children's children may worship, and by which generations yet unborn may know how the Saxon revered God." They chose, there-

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

fore, a level place, and all day long they wrought and toiled, and when night came they rested from their labours. But on the morrow, when they went again to work, behold! the stones with which they had laid the foundations of their church had disappeared. They had been borne during the night by invisible hands to the top of a round knoll. When the people saw this marvellous sight they cried with one voice: "Let us build now on the top of the hill, for this must be the will of God," and from that time the church and village have been known as Godshill in memory of this great deed.

This legend, which may have been invented in explanation of a rather remarkable name, belongs to a class of which numerous examples still linger in England. Usually one finds them in places where the parish church stands at a considerable distance from the village, and, generally, they are to the effect that the building erected in or near the village during the day-time was conveyed by evil influences to a remote situation at night. The Godshill legend is a variant of this group. The Rev. Isaac Taylor (in "Words and Places," p. 227) considers that the name Godshill indicates a pagan site consecrated to Christian worship.

Godshill Church (All Saints) is one of the largest churches in the Isle of Wight, and particularly interesting from the fact that it has escaped serious injury from injudicious restoration. It consists of two main aisles, with no architectural distinction between nave and





GODSHILL CHURCH



## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

chancel, and was mainly built in the 14th or 15th century. On the dissolution of the alien priories in 1414 the advowson was bestowed by Edward III. upon the monks of Sheen.

The S. transept or chantry, founded by one of the Fitz-Sturs, an ancient local family, has a fine barrel roof, and is attributed to the year 1450. The N. transept was formerly the De Heyno Chantry, but it was rebuilt in 1741 by Sir Robert Worsley.

There are several monuments to members of the Worsley family, and a fine canopied tomb, with recumbent alabaster effigies, to Sir John Leigh and Agnes, his wife (date about 1520). The lady was the heiress of the Hacketts of Wolverton. The head of the effigy is supported by angels and her mantle has armorial borders.

Another interesting monument is that to Sir James Worsley and Dame Joan, his wife. He was captain of the Isle of Wight and of Carisbrooke Castle, and Keeper of the Lions in the Tower of London, and died in 1537. The monument was erected by his widow, who lived until 1557.

About the year 1844 an interesting mural painting was discovered in the church. Mr Charles Roach Smith, F.S.A., who exhibited a coloured drawing of it at a meeting of the Society of Antiquaries, says: "The subject is the Crucifix, the cross being figured by a tree with three branches." The exact position of the painting, of which some traces still remain, is described by Mr Percy G. Stone as the east



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

wall of the south transept of the church. It may have served as the altar-piece of the chantry chapel, which was also known as the Hacket Chapel.

Over the south window in the external wall is a curious little sanctus bell cot of stone, with rough carved supporting corbels.

Godshill is particularly interesting on account of its ancient school. A chantry was established here by Sir John Leigh, knight, and endowed with lands worth £11, 2s. 4d. per annum. The incumbent was one John Griffith, a master of arts, who taught English grammar to many young children. But as this chantry was not stated to have been a grammar school by foundation, it may be that teaching was only the voluntary occupation of the chantry priest. However this may be, the chantry was founded before the year 1548, and was partly re-endowed as a "Free Grammar School" before 1615. It is interesting to note that by this re-endowment the old Chantry House was given to it. Other endowments were given in 1595, 1617, and 1622. It remained a real grammar school until 1813, since which date it has been concerned only with elementary education.

*Gurnard* is a village on the N.W. coast  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.W. of Cowes. Some years ago here were some important quarries of Bembridge stone. It was at Gurnard Bay that Charles II. landed in 1671 on the occasion of his visit to Sir Robert Holmes at Yarmouth.

*Hale*, a manor-house in Arreton parish. It

## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

is probable this was the residence of Harry Hawles, whose monumental brass is in Arreton Church. In the early part of the 17th century Hale was in the possession of the Oglander family. George Oglander, whose name is on the bell at Arreton, lived here. It is a picturesque house, but much less important than those of Arreton or Yaverland.

*Haseley* is a hamlet 4 m. S.E. of Newport, and near the village of Arreton. The manor of Haseley was granted by the Crown towards the end of the 11th century to a representative of the family of De Bohun. About the year 1135 it was granted to the Abbey of Quarr and converted into a grange. The house as it now exists contains only a portion of the structure of the 14th century grange, this being the western wing of the E. wing. The other parts of the house have been rebuilt at various times, but the great hall has been preserved and is used as the kitchen.

HEMPSTEAD HILL is an eminence on the N. coast of the Isle of Wight,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E. of Yarmouth and 210 feet in height. It possesses some interesting geological features.

HAVEN STREET is a small hamlet with railway station, situated about 4 m. S.W. of Ryde. It is not far to the S. of Wootton Creek, and there is a local belief that there actually was a haven here in past ages.

*Horringsford* is situated on the river East Yar,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.E. of Newport. This was originally part of the manor of Hale. The house is of

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

the 16th century, but has undergone considerable alteration. The staircase is said to have been brought here from Knighton when that house was pulled down in 1820.

*Kingston*,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.E. of Brixton, possesses a small church of little interest.

The manor-house, which is somewhat hidden from the main road, was built in the beginning of the 17th century, but there were, until a few years back when they were destroyed by fire, some remains of 15th century architecture. In the hall of the old house, which now serves as a kitchen, there is some good Jacobean woodwork. In the dining-room is a somewhat elaborate chimney-piece also of Jacobean workmanship, with the Meux arms carved on the central panel.

Kingston is mentioned in the Domesday Book and also in the Testa de Nevill, *temp.* Henry III., and the lords of this manor were evidently persons of some consequence.

*Knighon* was an old house situated 4 m. E. of Newport parish, pulled down in 1820, when the staircase was removed to Horrington.

*Lake* is a little village situated near the sea-coast about midway between Sandown and Shanklin. It lies in a somewhat retired situation, but is very attractive and is increasing in importance. It is quite a modern place, and its church was built in 1892.

LANDSLIP. (*See BONCHURCH.*)

LIMERSTONE. (*See BRIXTON.*)

LUCCOMBE CHINE is a rocky chasm on the



## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

S.E. coast of the island,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E. of Ventnor. It is private property, and not open to visitors, consequently little is known about its beauties save such glimpses as can be obtained from the sea as one passes it on a steamboat. It is cut mainly through beds of the Lower Greensand. The old river Yar, under former geographical conditions, had its chief source or sources very near Luccombe Chine.

MEDINA, RIVER, rises in the S. of the island, at the foot of St Catherine's Downs, and flows 12 m N. past Newport, where it becomes estuarial, to the Solent at Cowes. It divides the island into the two liberties of East Medina and West Medina.

*Merston* is situated 4 m. S.E. of Newport.

*Merston House* is a fine example of a Jacobean house, with a central porch and projecting wings. The ground plan may be described as E-shaped. The material employed is red brick. The manor is of great antiquity, and was mentioned in Domesday Book.

MOTTISTON is situated  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.W. of Brixton. The church (St Peter and St Paul), originally built about the end of the 12th century, consists of a nave with N. and S. aisles, a chancel with N. aisle, and a western tower. The building has been much injured, from an archæological point of view, by restoration.

The manor-house of Mottiston, which stands close to the high road between Freshwater and Ventnor, was probably built before the year 1550, and in part rebuilt or remodelled during

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

the second half of the 16th century. It is a stone building of a picturesque and rambling character. The manor, which was mentioned in the Domesday Survey, has at various times been held by William, son of Azor, Brian de Insula, and the families of Glamorgan and Cheke or Chyke, and others.

On Mottiston Down stands a large rock which by some writers has been described as having been shaped and placed upright by human agency. Some have supposed it to be a Druidical monument, whilst others suggest that it was reared to mark the meeting-place of the people in outdoor assemblies, called folk-moots. There does not seem to be the slightest evidence in support of either of these theories.

MORTON. (*See BRADING.*)

NEEDLES, the, are a group of insulated chalk rocks off the S.W. extremity of the island,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. of Yarmouth. On the most westerly of the group is the Needles Lighthouse, 109 ft. high, with occulting light 80 ft. above high water, and seen for 14 miles out at sea.

Formerly there was a lofty mass of chalk, known as "Lot's Wife," which rose to a height of 120 ft. above low water mark. It was of a thin tapering shape resembling a needle, and from this circumstance it is probable that the existing name was given to the group of rocks. The constant action of the waves, however, wore away the base of this natural column, and in 1774 it fell, totally disappearing beneath the waves.

THE NEEDLES







## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

NEWCHURCH is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.W. of Sandown. This is the largest parish in the Isle of Wight, extending over almost 14 square miles. The village, which contains some quaint old cottages, is beautifully situated. The church (All Saints) was probably founded before the Norman Conquest, and was one of those given to the Abbey of Lyra. Portions of the structure are of the 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th centuries. The chalice, which is a good example of its class, is dated 1620.

There is a quaint epitaph here to Richard Forward, who was "Vestry clerk 54 years, parish schoolmaster 53 years, and church clerk 24 years." The following lines accompany the epitaph:—

"In yonder sacred pile his voice was wont to sound,  
And now his body rests beneath the hallowed  
ground.

He taught the peasant boy to read and use the pen;  
His earthly toils are o'er—he's cry'd his last  
Amen."

NEWPORT, the capital of the Isle of Wight, 5 m. S. of Cowes and  $10\frac{1}{4}$  m. S.W. of Ryde, is a town with somewhat over ten thousand inhabitants. It is the chief centre of the railway system of the island, but is not much visited by tourists en route for Carisbrooke. As a matter of fact the place offers few attractions of the character usually expected by the visitor who spends his summer holiday in searching for ancient buildings or the beauties of nature.

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Speed, in 1611, wrote: "The principal Market-Town in the Isle is *Newport*, called in times past *Medena* and *Novus Burgus de Meden*; that is *the new Burgh of Meden*, whereof the whole Country is divided into *East-Meden* and *West-Meden*. A Town well seated, and much frequented, unto whose Burghesses his Majesty hath lately granted the choice of a Mayor, who with his Brethren doth govern accordingly. It is populous with inhabitants, having an entrance into the Isle from the Haven, and a passage for Vessels of small burden into the Key."

A charter was granted by Richard de Redvers in the reign of Henry II., and this was afterwards confirmed and amplified by Isabella de Fortibus. This early importance of Newport seems to have been a source of considerable trouble. It acted as an attraction to the French, who invaded the island and utterly destroyed the town in the year 1377. There seems to have been a long interval of about two hundred years during which the place was allowed to remain in a more or less ruined condition. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth the town was only partially rebuilt. James I., however, granted a charter of incorporation, and from that time a period of prosperity seems to have commenced. It may be of interest to recall the fact that from 1807 to 1809 Newport was represented in Parliament by Sir Arthur Wellesley (afterwards Duke of Wellington) and Lord Palmerston.

On the north side of Newport there was a



## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

cell of the Benedictine abbey of Tiron, founded about the year 1120. From a survey of alien priories made in 1295 we learn that this house, usually known as the priory of St Cross, possessed a horse for the prior, five heifers, a colt, a filly, ten oxen, two bulls, and a variety of other cattle. In 1391 the annual values of the temporalities were assessed at £10, 3s. 8d. The buildings were in a very dilapidated condition about the middle of the fourteenth century, and in 1369 the prior's income was sequestrated in consequence by Bishop Wykeham.

St Cross, or St Croos, as it was written in some accounts, was purchased by William of Wykeham along with certain other alien priories in Hampshire for Winchester College. This purchase took place in 1391.

A free-school, erected by public subscription in 1614, is interesting as having been the scene of several meetings between Charles I. and the Parliamentary Commissioners in October 1648. (*See APPENDIX.*)

The present church of St Thomas was built on the site of an ancient church which is said to have dated from the time of Henry II., and to have been dedicated in honour of St Thomas of Canterbury. The first stone of the new church was laid in 1854 by the late Prince Consort. The pulpit of carved oak and the bells probably belonged to the earlier church. In a vault under the church were buried the remains of Princess Elizabeth, the second daughter of Charles I., and she is commemorated by a tomb and beauti-

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

ful effigy designed by Baron Marochetti, which were presented to the church by her Majesty the late Queen Victoria.

The Princess Elizabeth died in captivity at Carisbrooke Castle in her fifteenth year from the effects of a chill. She was found by a servant one morning lying dead upon a couch, her face resting upon an open Bible which had been given her by her father. Queen Victoria was much touched by the story, and ordered the following inscription to be placed upon the monument :—"To the memory of the Princess Elizabeth, daughter of King Charles I., who died at Carisbrooke Castle on Sunday, September 8th, 1650, and is interred beneath the chancel of this church. This monument is erected as a token of respect for her virtues and of sympathy for her misfortunes, by Victoria R., 1856."

In Quay Street there is a museum containing a good collection of local fossils and several antiquities found in the island. The Guild Hall was built in 1814-16.

In former times Newport did a considerable trade in grain, flour, malt, navy biscuits, poultry, butter and starch. Its chief industrial feature at the present time is a large brewery.

The Corporation of Newport was formerly an institution of very great interest. It consisted of a mayor, eleven aldermen, and twelve chief burgesses, all nominated by the patron of the borough; a recorder, appointed by the Crown on petition of the mayor, but in fact also nominated

## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

by the patron; and other officers, including "gashers of hides," and "sealers of leather," and other obsolete functionaries. The elections of the corporation formerly took place in the church.

The municipal insignia <sup>1</sup> of Newport consist of two maces, a mayor's chain and badge, and borough seals. The larger mace, which is five feet long, has an open arched crown, the royal arms as borne by William III., and in four compartments formed by female demi-figure foliated terminations and arched with wreaths of laurel, are the rose, thistle, fleur-de-lis, and harp, each crowned. The arms of the borough, shown as a three-masted ship in full sail, are engraved on the mace, which, as is shown by the hall-marks, dates from 1696-7. The smaller mace is 3 ft. 6 in. long, bears the royal arms of George III., a three-masted ship intended for the arms of the borough, and an inscription dated 1766.

The mayor's chain is triple and formed of gold. On an oval badge are the arms of the borough in enamel, and an inscription recording the interesting fact that the chain and badge were presented by Robert William Kennard, Esq., M.P., to the Mayor and Corporation on the occasion of the marriage of their Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Wales, 10th March 1863.

The circular seal is of the early part of the

<sup>1</sup> For fuller particulars, see "Corporation Plate and Insignia of Office," by Jewett and St John Hope.



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15th century, and bears for device a single-masted vessel in full sail on the sea.

The Mayor's Feast used to be kept on the first Sunday after May Day, when the bailiff and his brethren met at Woodovis in the forest, where the keepers of the forest presented them with green boughs.

On the same day it was the custom from time immemorial for the Governor of the Isle of Wight to give five guineas to buy a bull to be baited, and given to the poor. It is worthy of note that the ancient ballot boxes and balloting balls, contained in a leathern bag, are still preserved, and were in 1899 exhibited at a meeting of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

NEWTOWN, a village 4 m. E. of Yarmouth, is situated in the parishes of Calbourne and Shalfleet. It is situated on Newton Bay, and was formerly a place of very considerable importance. Its ancient name was Franchville, and it may be considered one of the principal ports of the island three or four hundred years ago. At one time, it is said, the river could accommodate fifty ships of five hundred tons. Even at the latter part of the 18th century, when Worsley's "History of the Isle of Wight" was written, the haven of Newtown afforded the best security for shipping of any about the island, and was at high water able to receive vessels of five hundred tons burden. "The water and fishery," writes Sir Richard Worsley, "is claimed by the Mayor and Burgesses; they hold a court yet, and appoint constables; but







## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

pay a rent to the Lord of the Manor of Swainston, which is collected from the holders of borough lands.

“The qualification for voting at the election of representatives in this borough having been often contested and varied, was at last settled by Parliament. The oldest books show the qualification of a Burgess to have been the holding a borough land, paying rent to the Mayor and chief Burgesses; but in the reign of Charles II., an order was made, restricting the number of Burgesses to twelve. In the reign of William III., the Mayor and Burgesses pronounced this limitation illegal, and declared that the possession of a freehold in a borough land included the right of being a Burgess. Some few years after, on inspecting the old books of the borough, the last mentioned declaratory order was found to be contrary to the ancient usage of the borough; it was therefore erased out of this book, and the borough restored to the right of electing Burgesses out of those who enjoyed a freehold in a borough land.” In 1729, on a petition brought before the House of Commons, it was decided that the right of electing members to serve in Parliament for the Borough of Newtown was in the Mayor and Burgesses having borough lands.

From the time of Elizabeth until the Reform Bill was passed in 1832, Newtown returned two members to Parliament. Among them were two well-known men, viz., John Churchill, afterwards Duke of Marlborough, and George

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Canning, who became Prime Minister. The Town Hall still remains. The river is now much silted up. There was a considerable manufactory of salt here in former times, but the salterns have long been disused on account of the high price of coal rendering the work unremunerative. There is still some fishing, and oyster cultivation is carried on.

Newtown is now amalgamated with Calbourne (which see).

Newtown returned two members to Parliament during the early part of the 19th century, but it was disfranchised by the Reform Act of 1832. Since that period the corporation has gradually become extinct. Its insignia consist of a mace and a corporate seal. Mr W. H. St John Hope, who has paid a great deal of attention to municipal plate, thus describes the mace:—

“The mace, of silver parcel-gilt, is one of the most beautiful examples of its class in existence, and of especial interest as illustrating the evolution of the late civic mace from the war mace. It is  $12\frac{1}{4}$  in. long, and consists of a plain shaft divided into two parts by a moulded ring, and surmounted by a mace-head of peculiar character. The head is formed of two parts: the lower is bell-shaped, surrounded by three lions sejant in relief, and surmounted by a coronet of twelve fleurons; from this rises the upper part, which has a fine open cresting of twelve fleurs-de-lis, with intermediate pearls. Within the coronet is a raised cap enclosing a flat plate engraved with the royal arms—France







THE UNDERCLIFF, NITON

## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

modern and England quarterly, ensigned with a royal coronet, and with the greyhound and dragon supporters of Henry VII. There are a few traces of the red enamel in the second and third quarters of the shield, and of the dark blue ground on which the shield, etc., are placed. This plate having become loose, it was found that the royal arms had been 'put out' during the Commonwealth by the simple and economical plan of reversing the plate and engraving on it the 'State's arms.' . . . The lower end of the mace is encircled by a pretty coronet of nine fleurons from which issues a short length with five beautiful open-traceried flanges. The flat end is quite plain. The gilt portions of the mace are the several bands and coronets, the lions round the head, and the royal arms on top. . . . The mace, as shown by the arms, is *temp.* Henry VII."

The seal is circular in form, bears the device of a single-masted vessel on the sea, and was probably cut about the year 1330.

*Ningwood House* is a seat in the parish of Shalfleet, 7 m. W. of Newport.

NITON,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. of Ventnor, has an ancient church (St John the Baptist), the nave of which is supposed to have been built soon after the time when the Domesday Book was compiled. This was one of the churches given by William Fitz-Osbern to the Abbey of Lyra. The tower has heavy embattlements, and is surmounted by a small spire.

The Parish Registers, which date from 1560, contain an interesting entry under the date of

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

1st July 1675, to the effect that Charles II., King of Great Britain, "came safely ashore at Puckaster, after he had endured a great and dangerous storm at sea."

NORTHWOOD,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. of Newport, is a parish containing West Cowes. The church of Northwood (St John the Baptist) was originally a chapelry, but became parochial in the year 1545. It stands in a lonely position. The earliest trace of a building here is documentary evidence of the 12th century, but there are architectural features of the 13th century, as well as the 15th and 16th centuries. The church possesses a 17th century pulpit and an ugly modern tower. The Confraternity of St John the Baptist formerly had an altar in Northwood Church.

NUNWELL, 1 m. N.W. of Brading, is the ancient seat of the Oglander family. The house, which is situated in the sheltered hollow just to the N. of Brading Down, appears to be of three periods. The first structure, a considerable portion of which still remains near the present entrance hall, was built in the time of Henry VII. The second part, including some of the principal rooms of the house and the staircase, was built in 1604; and remaining portions are modern. The rooms occupied by Charles I. on the occasion of his visit here in 1647 are still intact, and there are many family portraits of great interest. From the garden in front of the house, one obtains a beautiful view of the park, lying in a sheltered valley in the direction of Brading.



## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

The Oglanders, from the time of the Conquest downwards, have been among the leading families of the Isle of Wight. They have owned land in the island since 1100. They trace their origin to Richard de Oglandres of Caen, who was one of the marshals who accompanied William the Conqueror. Accompanied by Fitz-Osbern, De Oglander assisted in the reduction of the Isle of Wight, and obtained a grant of estate, which has been held in uninterrupted succession by his descendants for more than eight centuries. Peter de Oglander was first Prior of Christchurch, Hants, of the new foundation, and then gave it land in Ningwood near Shalfleet. The best-known member of this ancient family was Sir John Oglander, Deputy Governor of Portsmouth and Deputy Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight. He was a staunch Royalist, and it is supposed that his warm support was one of the causes which induced Charles I. to select the Isle of Wight as his place of refuge.

The original MS. of the "Oglander Memoirs,"<sup>1</sup> and many other papers of great local and historical interest, are preserved in the library at Nunwell.

On the lawn is preserved the old parish gun of Brading. It is rather a handsome piece, and is inscribed:—

"John and Robert Owine brethren made this  
Pese 1549, Brerdyn."

<sup>1</sup> A selection of these MSS. was printed by Mr W. H. Long in 1888, under the title of "The Oglander Memoirs."

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Unfortunately, the gun was burst when fired on the occasion of the public rejoicings at the passing of the Reform Bill.

OSBORNE HOUSE. (*See WHIPPINGHAM.*)

PARKHURST FOREST, a tract of woodland, situated to the N.W. of Newport, has the reputation of being the first royal chase established in England. At present it has an area of about 1100 acres, but formerly it was nearly three times that size. It still remains, however, the largest forest in the island.

Parkhurst Forest is mentioned in Domesday Book. The ancient lords of the Wight had the right of free forest in it and the exclusive privilege of stag-hunting. When the lordship of the island was purchased by the Crown, these forest rights were included in the exchange.

In the reign of Edward III., one John Maltravers held certain lands in Dorset, by the service of attending the king for one day at his Castle of Carisbrooke during the season of buck-hunting. When Henry VII. visited Dame Joanna Bowerman at her manor of Brook, he rewarded his hostess with the grant of a fat buck yearly out of his forest of Carisbrooke. James I., with his son Prince Charles, is recorded to have hunted in the park and killed a buck on a brief visit to the island on August 2nd, 1609.

For many centuries Parkhurst Forest remained an unprofitable waste, nominally held by the governor of the island, but really used as common land by the inhabitants. At length the forest was disparked, and all excepting the

## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

Crown allotment was brought into cultivation. In 1815, part of the forest was planted with timber for dockyard purposes, but the scheme does not seem to have been a great success.

Parkhurst Forest is situated on what are geologically known as the Hamstead Beds, and as early as the year 1579 alum was extracted from the clay in these beds.

In Parkhurst Forest, near Newport, a House of Industry was established in the eighteenth century, which Pennant considered "the most pleasing view in this part of our journey." In his "Journey from London to the Isle of Wight" (1801), he writes that this is "a very large building, founded soon after the year 1770, on ground granted by the Crown. Eighty acres were given on a lease of 999 years, which is divided into fields and gardens, in a manner best calculated to answer the pious purpose of the foundation. Every requisite for the comfortable support of the aged, and for the education of the young, is provided. There are officers of every nature; a chaplain attends twice a week to take charge of their spiritual concerns, and two surgeons and apothecaries superintend their bodily infirmities. The number of poor is generally about 550, but the house is capable of receiving 700. They are employed in the manufacture of sacks for corn and flour, for which there is great demand; and in that of woollen cloth for their own clothing, dowlas for shirts and sheeting, and stockings, all for the use of the house."



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

QUARR ABBEY, the chief monastic house in the Isle of Wight, is now represented by some ruins situated in the parish of Binstead. It was founded in 1131 by Baldwin de Redvers as a Cistercian abbey dedicated in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The name Quarr is believed to have reference to the stone quarries here. Unfortunately most of the buildings, except those which could be utilised for agricultural purposes, were demolished by Mr Mills, a merchant of Southampton, who purchased the place at the dissolution.

The founder endowed the abbey with the manor of Arreton, the lands of which were much improved in value by the monks during the four centuries of their ownership. Baldwin de Redvers, Adeliza his wife, many of their descendants, and Lady Cicely, the second daughter of King Edward IV., were buried in the abbey church. The last abbot was William Rippon. Some excavations on the site of Quarr Abbey have yielded much valuable information regarding the original disposition of the buildings, full details of which may be found in "The Architectural Antiquities of the Isle of Wight," by Mr Percy G. Stone, F.S.A.

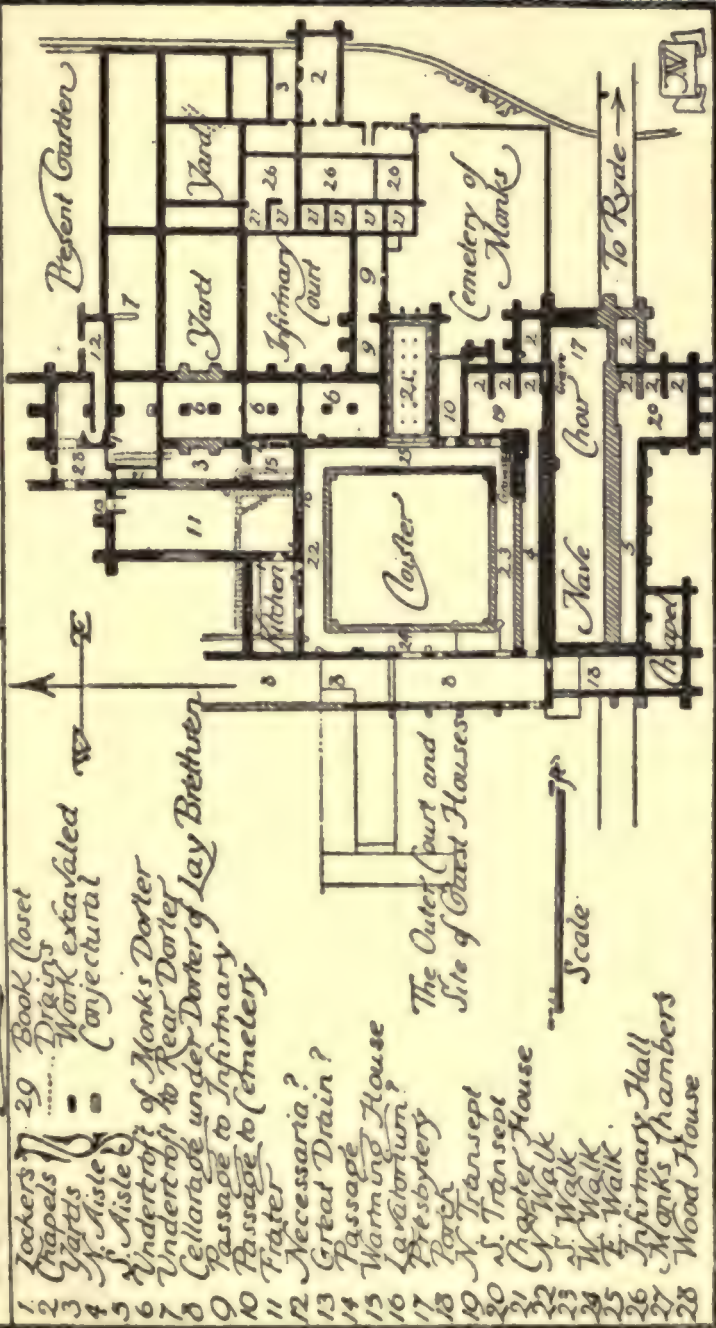
The accompanying plan has been prepared, by permission, from that published in Mr Stone's work.

To the west of the ruins of the abbey is a large circular mound, which once served as a beacon-hill, from which a warning fire communicated news of apprehended danger.

RYDE, a well-known watering-place, situated

# PLAN of the ABBEY of ST. MARY at Quarr

## According to the excavations of 1891.











RYDE PIER

## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

8½ miles N.E. of Newport, is the point at which visitors usually land on arriving from the mainland. The town, which is charmingly situated on a rather steep hill, presents a very striking appearance as one approaches it on the water. The country in this part of the island is richly wooded, and the trees grow almost down to the level of the sea. The foreshore, however, is very slightly inclined seawards, and at low water a great expanse of wet mud and greenish seaweed is laid bare. It is in consequence of the shallowness of the water, of course, that the pier has been built to such a great length. The first pier, 1740 feet in length, was opened in 1814; in 1824, and again in 1853, it was lengthened. It is now about half a mile long, and really consists of three separate parallel structures, comprising a promenade pier for pedestrians, and separate structures for the railway and the electric tram lines. Ryde Pier was one of the earliest structures of its kind in the kingdom; and in the very early days of the history of Ryde as a watering-place, the Pier formed a fashionable place for promenading.

The Victoria Pier, built in 1859, is now used only for bathing purposes.

The old Theatre Royal at Ryde, the site of which is now occupied by a more modern theatre, was an interesting building. In it the celebrated Mrs Jordan played for the last time in England, and it was here, too, that Miss Ellen Terry, when a mere child, first appeared on the stage, playing Puck in "A Midsummer Night's



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Dream." Several other members of the Terry family made their first appearance at this old theatre.

Ryde is essentially a modern town, and offers few attractions to the visitor with antiquarian tastes. It was first made into a separate parish in 1866.

The Royal Victoria Yacht Club is one of the most important of the local institutions. The first stone of the club-house was laid in 1846 by the late Prince Consort.

A considerable space near the seashore has been reclaimed from the waves and converted into some very pretty public recreation grounds, known as the Esplanade Gardens. There is a Golf Club at Westridge Farm, a little over a mile out of the town.

Many of the victims who perished when the *Royal George* went down were buried near the seashore, not far from the place where the present Esplanade Gardens are.

ST BONIFACE DOWN, an eminence near Bonchurch, rising to an altitude of 787 feet, forming the eastern end of the southern range of chalk downs, and commanding beautiful and extensive views over land and sea.

ST CATHERINE'S DOWN. (See CHALE DOWN.)

ST CATHERINE'S ORATORY. (See CHALE DOWN.)

St Catherine's Point is the southern extremity of the island. It is surmounted by a lighthouse 84 feet high, 134 feet above high

## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

water, and visible for a long distance. The apparatus is capable of producing what is considered to be the most powerful coast light and fog signal in the world. Electricity is used in connection with optical apparatus, with the result that the illuminating power is equal to seven millions of candles.

ST HELEN'S is situated 4 m. S.E. of Ryde. There was formerly a small monastic institution here, a cell of a Norman Abbey of the Cluniac order, whose name, however, is not known. It is believed to have been founded about the year 1090. After being suppressed and reinstated, the priory finally came to an end in the reign of Henry V. The monastic church did duty also as the parish church, but owing to the inroads of the sea, a portion of the structure became unsafe and was taken down in the reign of Edward VI. In the time of Elizabeth the parish was without clergy, and the parishioners had to bury the dead themselves. A new church was built at a safer and more elevated spot early in the 18th century, and was consecrated in 1719. A portion of the old church still stands, and has been converted into a landmark for mariners. This is probably the only relic left of the old priory, although a neighbouring mansion, standing on higher ground and nearer the more modern church of St Helen, has received the name of The Priory.

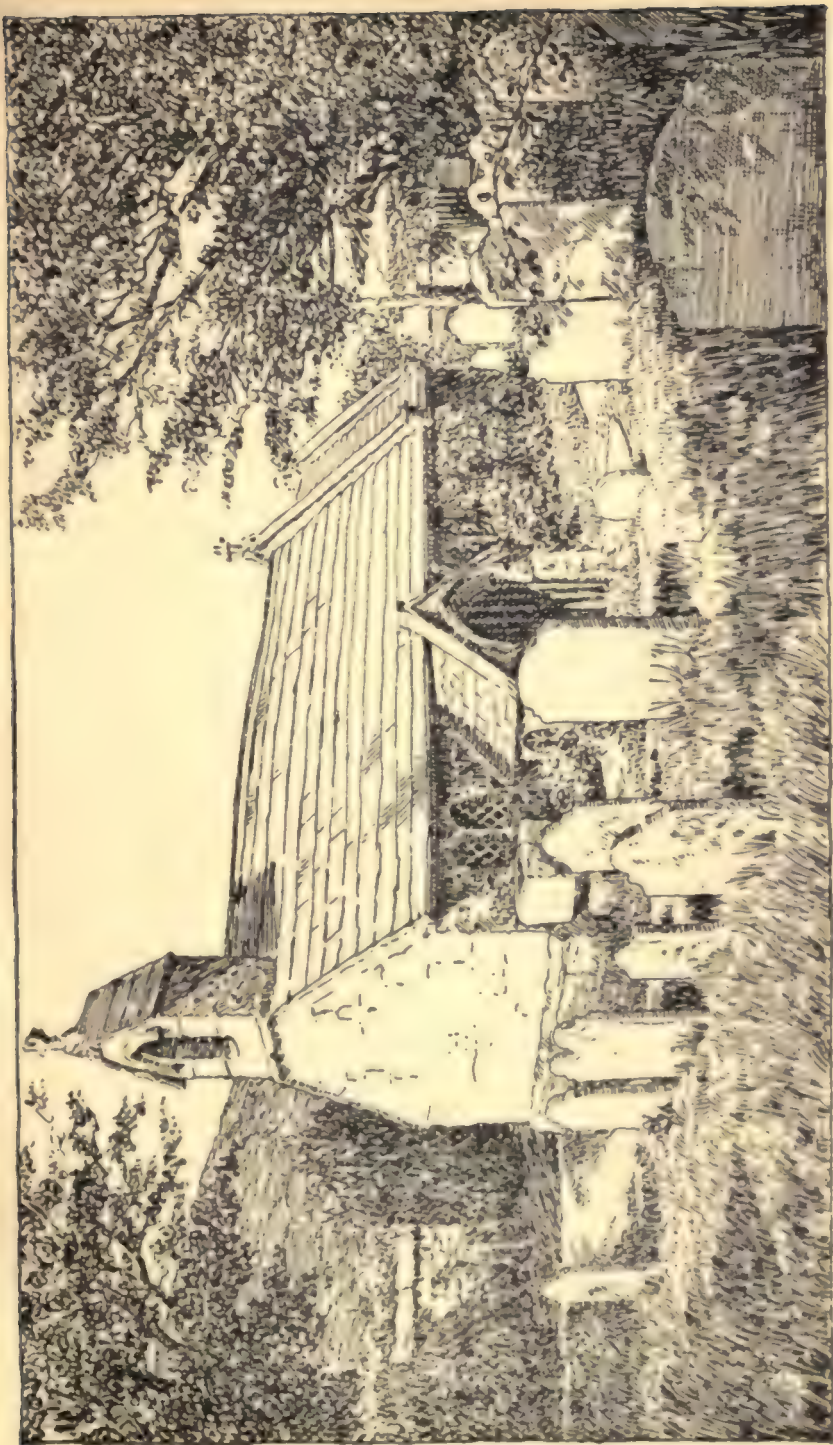
ST LAWRENCE is situated on the coast of the island 2 m. S.W. of Ventnor. The parish has been identified with the ancient manor of

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Wath, and the interesting little church was once known as the chapel of St Lawrence under Wath. It is evident, therefore, that the name of St Lawrence, in whose honour the church was dedicated, has been applied to the parish instead of that of Wath, and it has been supposed that this change of name took place as early as the year 1255. An Assize Roll, at the Record Office, gives the name of a chaplain of St Lawrence residing there since the year 1201, from which it seems probable that this was a distinct parish from the beginning of the 13th century. This view is supported by the architectural evidence, a piscina on the south wall of the church being workmanship also of the 13th century.

The church once had the local reputation of being the smallest in the kingdom. It is recorded that its former dimensions were 30 feet by 11 feet, and 6 feet to the eaves. There is a view of the building in Worsley's "History of the Isle of Wight," published in 1781, from which it appears that the chancel had only one light, apparently an E.E. lancet, in the E. wall, whilst in the whole of the south wall there were only two minute windows placed apparently at the point where chancel and nave met. On the roof at the W. end of the nave was a small bell-cot, evidently containing the "two small bells hanging in the end of the Church," which were mentioned as belonging to the church of St Lawrence in the inventories of church goods made in the time of Edward VI.





THE OLD CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE









SANDOWN BAY

## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

Several Roman and mediæval coins have been found at various times in the parish.

*Sandford* is a pretty village in the parish of Godshill,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.E. of Newport, chiefly remarkable for its yew trees and ivy-clad cottages.

SANDOWN is in the parish of Brading, on Sandown Bay, 6 m. S. of Ryde. It may be briefly described as an entirely modern seaside district with few, if any, remarkable features of antiquarian or historical interest. Christ Church, built on a site presented by Sir W. Oglander, dates only from 1845. The houses are well-built and commodious; the sand is excellent for children; and the sea offers special attractions for bathers and swimmers. Swimming and diving are permitted from the pier-head at certain times. The Roman villa at Morton, between Sandown and Brading, is one of the chief objects of interest in the neighbourhood. Sandown possesses an esplanade three-quarters of a mile in length, and a pier which was improved and lengthened in 1895, and is now nearly a thousand feet long.

SANDOWN BAY, which extends on the E. coast of the Isle of Wight from Culver Cliff to Dunnose Point, presents perhaps the most beautiful piece of coast scenery in the island.

SANDOWN CASTLE. There seems to have been a fort near Sandown in the time of Henry VIII., doubtless constructed as part of the defensive works in which the forts of Cowes and Yarmouth were included. This castle, or fort, was rebuilt in the time of Sir John

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Oglander, and it is interesting to note that two of the spherical stone ornaments from this fortification have recently been placed upon the piers of the gateway leading to Sir John Oglander's old house at Nunwell.

Sandown Castle was again rebuilt as a star-shaped fort at the end of the 18th century. A still more modern fort in the neighbourhood has been constructed at a more northern and more inland position, and is painted green. There is also a new fort on the crest of Bembridge Down.

SCRATCHELL'S BAY is situated at the S.W. extremity of the island, near the Needles. It is overhung by lofty cliffs, and possesses a cave entered by a natural arch 180 feet in span and 200 ft. high. A lofty perpendicular cliff affords a valuable and very striking section of the chalk rock, showing very clearly the successive bands of flint curved and bent, in directions agreeing with the folding of the beds. The pressure which has accompanied this folding has been so great and so long continued that the chalk has been much hardened by it, and numerous fragments of it rolled into the form of regular pebbles may be seen on the beach on this part of the coast. It is to this great hardness of the chalk that the perpendicular and even overhanging face of the cliffs may be attributed.

*Sea View* is a village 2 m. S.E. of Ryde. It is a beautifully-wooded district, and the beach is much patronised by bathers, and bathing tents are very generally used instead of machines.





SEA VIEW



There is a curious pier here built in a series of curved spans instead of a horizontal plane. This pier runs for a thousand feet from the shore, and it is the regular landing-place for passengers who come here by boat.

The country here, and particularly a little inland, is very charming, rural, and well-wooded.

*Shalcombe Down* is in the W. part of the island, 3 m. E. of Freshwater, and rising to a height of 486 ft. above the sea.

SHALFLEET is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. E. of Yarmouth. The church (dedication unknown) is a fine building, some portions of which were erected in the 11th century. The tower has remarkably massive walls, no less than 5 feet thick in some parts. This circumstance, and the fact that it has no openings on the ground level except to the nave, has led Mr P. G. Stone to think that the church tower was originally intended to serve as a defensive building as well as a part of the church.

Additions to the church were made in the 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries, and in 1889 the building was restored.

SHANKLIN is situated on Sandown Bay  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E. of Ventnor. The church (St John the Baptist) was formerly known as the chapel of St Blaise. The S. wall of the chancel has a piscina and single-light window of the 14th century. Additions were made to Shanklin church in 1852.

There is a handsome chest, which is said to have been the gift of Thomas Silkstead, the last



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

prior of Winchester, whose name and the date 1512 are carved on the front of the chest.

Shanklin was formerly part of the parish of Bonchurch, but in 1853 it was separated and made into a separate living.

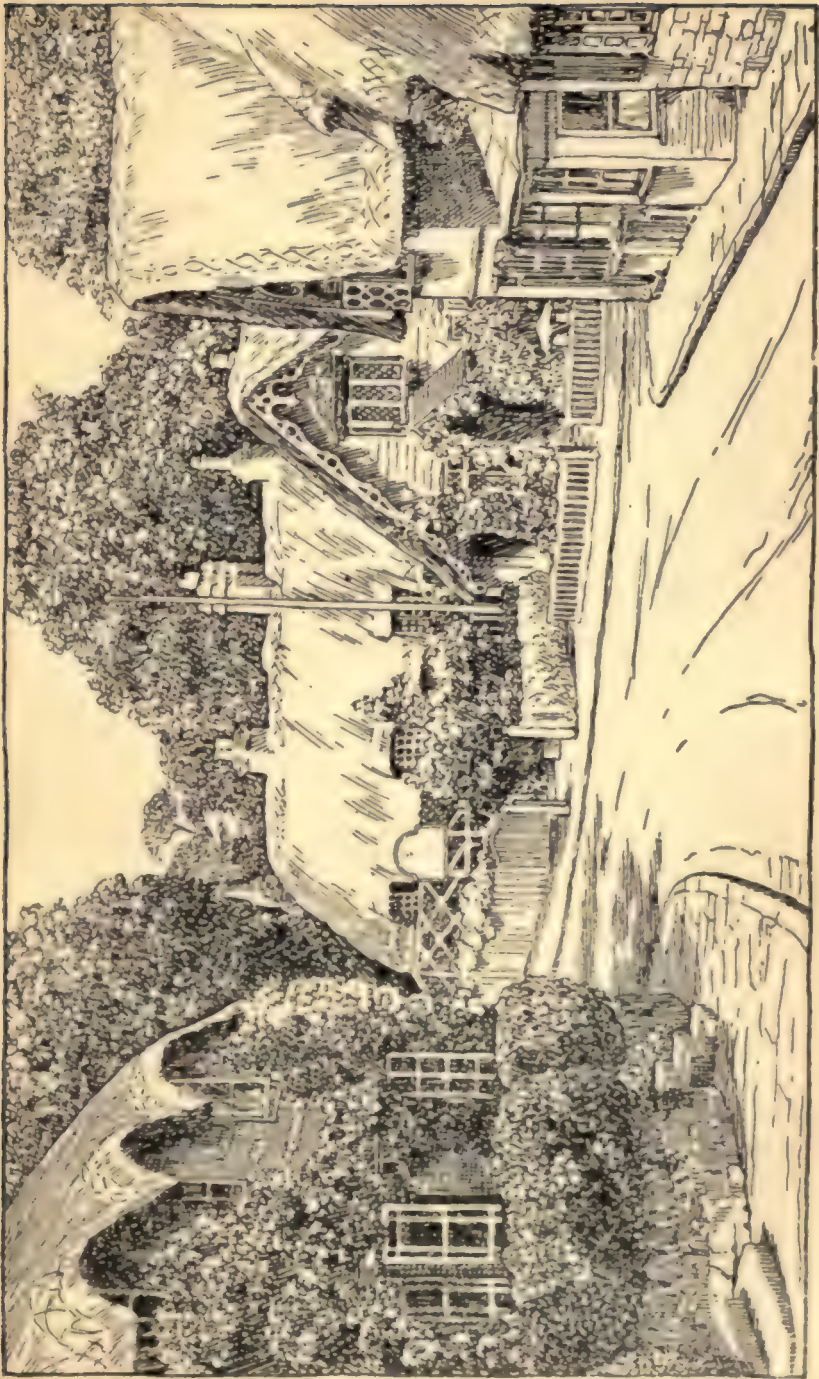
The old village of Shanklin, with its thatched cottages and old-fashioned gardens, presents a remarkable picture of the place before the attractions of the climate brought visitors to this charming corner of the island.

The modern town of Shanklin is built partly on the low level near the seashore, but mainly on the top of the steep rocky cliff, which rises to a height of upwards of a hundred feet. The new houses are thoroughly well built, convenient dwellings, and surrounded by extensive gardens. A zig-zag pathway leads from the top of the cliff to the lower level, where there is an esplanade about half a mile long. Shanklin possesses a pier at which steamers call, and a hydraulic lift, the latter connecting the lower and upper parts of the town.

SHANKLIN CHINE is a well-known romantic ravine, mainly of natural formation, and due to the eroding influence of a small stream which still runs through the deeply cut gorge. It is overshadowed by some beautiful trees, and is one of the most celebrated of the popular sights in the island. The whole glen may be briefly described as a perfect paradise of lovely trees and ferns and other plants.

*Shide* is a village 1 m. S. of Newport. Except for the fact that Shide Bridge was the

SHANKLIN OLD VILLAGE







## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

place where post-mortem and other inquisitions in Plantagenet times were taken, the place is of little interest.

SHORWELL is situated  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. of Newport. The church (St Peter), which is generally considered to be the most beautifully placed of all the churches in the island, is an ancient structure apparently in the Perp. style, but a careful examination shows that its architectural history extends from the 13th century. A good deal of the church was clearly built about the middle of the 15th century, and to that period belongs the very remarkable mural painting over the N. door representing the life of St Christopher.

According to a popular legend the church was built during the time of Edward III. in consequence of the complaint of the inhabitants that they had to convey their dead four miles for burial at Carisbrooke, and in winter, when they had to pass through the water in Idlecombe Lane, the death of one person was the occasion of many more lives being lost.

There is an interesting panelled stone pulpit here with a rich Jacobean canopy, and a plain well-shaped font with Jacobean cover.

The monuments include a series of memorials to the Leigh family, and brasses to Sir Richard Bethell, vicar, 1518; Mrs Elizabeth Bampffield and Mrs Gertr. Percevall, 1619; and Elizabeth Leigh, 1621.

Billingham is an ancient house in this parish which was formerly the home of a branch of the Worsley family.

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

On the downs near Shorwell is a small stone tower, erected to commemorate the daughter of a former owner of Northcourt.

SOLENT, the, may be briefly described as the channel which separates the N.W. shore of the Isle of Wight from the mainland of Hampshire. It extends between the Needles and West Cowes, and has a varying width of from 2 to 5 miles. The Solent affords a safe and well sheltered anchorage.

SPITHEAD is a celebrated roadstead at the entrance of Portsmouth Harbour, extending 2 m. N.W. and S.E. along the S.W. side of the Spit Sand, with an average breadth of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. On 29th August 1782 the *Royal George*, a man-of-war of 108 guns, was lost off Spithead. The Rear-Admiral Kempenfeldt, the crew, and many others, 600 in all, were drowned.

Pennant, in his "Journey from London to the Isle of Wight," 1801, gives the following particulars of the wreck of the *Royal George*:—

"On May 16th, in the morning, I embarked from Portsmouth in a Cowes packet, and in a most turbulent sea left to the right Fort Monkton; and to the left had the melancholy sight of the top-masts of the *Royal George*, of one hundred guns, which, on August 29th, 1782, while she was careening with her upper ports open, and many of her guns removed to one side to bring it close to the water-edge, was at once upset by a sudden gust of wind, and went





SHANKLIN CHINE





## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

instantly to the bottom. The brave Rear-Admiral Kempenfeldt was at the time sitting writing in the cabin, and perished, together with four hundred seamen, and about the same number of women and children, who had taken the opportunity of the inactive state of the ship to visit their friends; three hundred only were saved. A tender, which lay alongside, met a singular fate: she was drawn in by the vortex made by the unfortunate ship and never rose again. This sad accident was occasioned by the zeal of the spirited Admiral for returning with all possible speed to the service of his country, which would not permit him to take the more tedious method of careening.

“The *Royal George* was the best sailor in the navy, and, before she grew old, carried the heaviest metal: fifty-two, forty-eight, and twenty-eight pounders. She carried the tallest masts and squarest canvas of any English-built ship in the service. She was coveted by every Admiral, and therefore was engaged in more actions than any other. Lord Anson, Admiral Boscawen, and Admiral Rodney had honoured her with their flags; and in her the gallant Hawke sent to the bottom the *Superbe*, in the ever-memorable engagement of November 1759. The most daring of Kempenfeldt's actions was in the *Victory* on December 12, 1781, when to the east of Ushant, with twelve sail of the line, he fell in with the French fleet of eighteen, four of which carried one hundred and ten guns each. They had under convoy a large fleet of trans-

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

ports, with troops and all kinds of military stores. He knew that to attack so formidable a squadron would be folly ; but determined, with a press of sail, to force his way to the transports : he accordingly dashed through the enemy's line—eighteen of the convoy struck to him ; and he carried away as many as the closing of the day, a hard gale, and thick weather would permit. His manœuvres afterwards, in face of the adverse fleet, were so masterly as to place him among the first of our seamen, and to cause his loss to be poignantly regretted, and his memory, to this moment, to be revered by his admiring country. His body found its tomb in the ill-fated ship, and a cœnotaph in Stoke parish (full in sight) records his most uncommon worth."

Many of the victims of this terrible calamity were buried near what is now the Esplanade at Ryde, and in the early part of the 19th century several rows of graves were visible in a small marshy meadow there.

The most remarkable objects to be seen at Spithead are the circular forts constructed of iron and granite which guard this important section of the coast. They were built some years ago at a cost of nearly two million pounds, and are armed with breech-loading guns of the heaviest type. Some of the forts are painted black and white in chess-board pattern, with the result that it is practically impossible at a little distance away to see where the embrasures are placed. They are garrisoned by Royal Artillery, and well stocked with provisions and a supply of



## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

fresh water procured in each case from a deep well within the fort.

In combination with the defences at Southsea, Portsmouth, and Hurst Castle on the mainland, and at Sandown and other points in the Isle of Wight, it is believed that they render Portsmouth and its famous dockyard absolutely impregnable.

**THORLEY** is situated 1 m. S.E. of Yarmouth. The church (St Swithin) was almost entirely pulled down in 1871, as it was found that the majority of the parishioners were resident at an inconveniently long distance from it. The porch and belfry have been allowed to remain.

*Thorness Bay* is 3 m. S.W. of West Cowes.

*Totland Bay* is an ecclesiastical district in Freshwater parish, situated on the bay also known as Totland Bay, 3 m. S.W. of Yarmouth.

**UNDERCLIFF.** This is a fine stretch of cliff and terrace reaching from Dunnose, past Ventnor and St Lawrence, to Blackgang Chine. It is 7 m. long, and the terrace has a varying width of from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile. The part situated between Bonchurch and Shanklin, locally known as the Landslip, will be found described under the head of Bonchurch, with which place it is commonly associated; but in reality the whole of the Undercliff is one enormous landslip, or rather series of landslips which have, like that at Bonchurch, been mainly caused by the sliding of the Chalk and Upper Greensand over the slippery surface of the Gault, a species of slate-coloured or blue clay which is locally known in

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

the Isle of Wight as the Blue Slipper. The tendency for the rocks to slide down from the face of the cliff in this part of the island is, or rather was, largely due to a rather pronounced southerly, seaward dip, and to the outburst of springs at the junction of the porous Upper Greensand and the Gault.

The marks of landslips of various sizes in this district are very clear and abundant, and it is rather surprising to be told, as geologists do tell us, that, through the greater part of the Undercliff, the slipped materials assumed a position of rest before the commencement of the historic period, although both at Blackgang and at Bonchurch slips of rock took place during the last century. It is probable that in the belt of ground occupied by the actual slip, the southerly dip was steeper than it is in the existing cliff, which consequently does not show such a great tendency to slip.

The charmingly romantic scenery of the Undercliff is amongst the very finest of its kind in the kingdom. Towards the western end, however, where the cliffs are bare, the scene is one of wildness and ruin rather than of rural and sylvan beauty.

Near the Blackgang end of the Undercliff, the visitor can see from the road a small temple erected by a Mr Letts in commemoration of the tercentenary of Shakespeare's birth, and inscribed:—

“The water nectar and the rocks pure gold.”

*The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, II. iv.





VENTNOR, FROM CLIFF WALK





## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

VENTNOR is situated on the S. coast of the island, 11 m. to the S. of Ryde. It is one of the most famous health resorts in the kingdom, and its situation on the steep hill-side to the S. of the Chalk Downs is extremely pretty. The place is remarkable for the beauty of many of the houses perched upon the sides of the sloping shore, and for the charming views which they command. Ventnor is a good centre, too, for pedestrian excursions to the Landslip, Shanklin, and the Undercliff. But the whole place is modern and its large population has been attracted almost entirely by the advantages it offers as a health resort.

The walk from Ventnor through the Landslip is one of peculiar and unusual beauty. The way lies through Bonchurch, past the famous pond and near the old church, the latter being on the right hand side. Descending the hill a little, a turn to the left brings the pedestrian to the entrance of the Landslip and in sight of a magnificent series of inland cliffs, trees, under-wood, and a great variety of vegetable growth. Not unfrequently the upper parts of the cliffs are hidden by the clouds of sea-mist which are rapidly driven against them by the breeze. The moisture so brought is partly condensed and falls in the form of rain drops on the mosses, lichens and ferns which grow so plentifully and luxuriantly among the tumbled rocks of the Landslip. The pathway is winding and irregular, and as we follow it, some new aspect of the beauty of the place is presented at every

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

turn. Just beyond the Landslip lies Luccombe Chine, which is not open to the public. Shanklin Chine (which see) lies a little further on near Shanklin old village.

It was off Ventnor on 24th March 1878, that the frigate *Eurydice*, a training-ship, was lost, when all hands, upwards of 300 men and boys, perished. Some of the victims lie buried in the churchyard at Sandown.

*Walpan* is a farm situated near Chale. The house is small and unimportant, and probably of the early part of the 17th century. Walpan was one of the small manors mentioned in the Domesday Book.

*Walpan Chine* is a ravine on the S. coast of the island,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.W. of Niton.

*Watch-House Point*. This is situated between Sea View and Bembridge, and although now almost forgotten, marks the place where in former days a watch of ten men by day and four by night was stationed, with a beacon ready to be fired, to guard the corner of the island from the attacks of invaders.

**WATCOMBE BAY** is situated near the Needles; there are several caves in the chalk cliffs here.

*Waytes Court* is situated to the south of Brixton Church. It was anciently the residence of the Wayte family, was formerly an important manor-house. The foundations of the walls are extensive, although the existing structure above the ground level is only a straw-thatched farmhouse. Sir John Oglander is said to have pur-





STEEPHILL COVE, VENTNOR



## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

chased Waytes Court in his day (17th century) for the sum of £2500.

*Wellow* is a hamlet situated  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.E. of Yarmouth.

*West Court*, situated between Shorwell and Brixton, is a picturesque and highly interesting house, bearing traces of three distinct periods of building, viz. : the east wing is of the time of Henry VIII., the main body was built in Elizabeth's, and the west wing was erected in the time of James I.

WHIPPINGHAM is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E. of Newport. There was a manor here in the time of the Domesday Book. The church (St Mildred) is one of those which William Fitz-Osbern built and endowed, and subsequently gave to the Abbey of Lyra. The present church is entirely new, having been built in 1860, but the old church which it replaced was a curious structure with a long E.E. chancel. Considering the early importance of Whippingham, it is remarkable that the church was not of a more important character.

Although it has no archæological importance, Whippingham Church will always be regarded as a building of deep popular interest, from the fact that it was for many years the place of worship attended by Queen Victoria and other members of the royal family and household, when the Court was in the Isle of Wight. (See BARTON.)

Osborne House in this parish was long the marine residence of Her Majesty the late Queen



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Victoria, and no account of the Isle of Wight would be complete which omitted a brief description of the house. The situation of Osborne House is one of the very finest that could be found throughout the island, and a peep of the building can generally be obtained from the deck of a steamer passing between Cowes and Ryde. There was an earlier house here which was pulled down to make way for the present mansion erected from the designs of T. Cubitt. The present building is a good specimen of domestic Italian architecture with two square towers, a flag-tower and a clock-tower 107 and 90 feet high respectively.

There were many pictures and pieces of statuary at Osborne House when the late Queen Victoria lived there, but many of these have been recently removed to London and Windsor since H.M. the King has been graciously pleased to present the estate as a gift to the nation.

Osborne House will always be remembered as the scene of the last days of Queen Victoria.

*Whitecliff Bay* is situated on the E. coast, 3 m. N.E. of Sandown. It is remarkable for the variously coloured strata in the cliff, but owing to the vegetation which is here so abundant, this feature is but little seen.

WHITWELL is 3 m. W. of Ventnor. The church (St Mary and St Radegund) contains some slight remains of 12th century masonry, but is mainly of 16th century and later dates. Whitwell was originally a chapelry to Godshell,



OSBORNE HOUSE





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There is an old bell reputed to have been founded by Peter de Weston in 1350, bearing the following inscription:—

MIKAELIS CAMPANA FUGIANT PULSANTE PROPHANA, P. W.

Some restorations undertaken in 1868 brought to light some mural paintings which quickly crumbled to dust, and the shaft of a stone cross was also found.

There is a Jacobean communion table inscribed "I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord," and a rather handsome pulpit of carved woodwork. Whitwell was amalgamated with the livings of Niton and Godshill about the year 1730, and so continued until 1867, when the parishes were separated.

*Whitwell Shute* is a ravine in the neighbourhood of Whitwell.

*Woolverton*. There are two places in the Isle of Wight so named.

1. The manor of Woolverton (Wulfheres Town), of which some indistinct remains existed near Brading.

2. Wolverton, or Woolverton, a picturesque manor-house near the Undercliff.

This was a manor in the time of the Domesday Survey. The existing house was built by John Dingley, but the upper part was never finished. There are some interesting features left; the old hall still remains, and serves its original purpose. There is also some woodwork carved with heraldic devices.

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WOOTTON, sometimes called WOOTTON BRIDGE, is situated on Wootton Creek, about midway between Ryde and Newport, lies 4 m. W. of Ryde. The church (St Edmund the King) is said to have been built by Walter de Insula in the reign of William II. as a private chapel. It is pretty clear from the existing Norm. south doorway that part of the church, at any rate, is of about that period. Other parts are of early 13th century work.

A chantry chapel was erected by the De Insula family on the north side about the beginning of the 13th century. The church was damaged by fire in the time of Edward III., and repaired or rebuilt soon after. Other structural alterations were made about the beginning of the 16th century.

There is a small quay at Wootton, from which at one time there was regular communication with Portsmouth.

WOOTTON CREEK is a narrow inlet of the sea, winding amidst oak trees some distance inland. It is a favourite place for yachting when the tide is high, but at low tide great caution is advisable in crossing the muddy shore. Wootton Creek is tidal as far as Wootton Bridge, where it is crossed by a causeway about three hundred yards in length. (*See HAVEN STREET.*)

*Wroxall* is a village  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. of Ventnor. There is a railway station here, by means of which it is easy to reach this excellent centre for the exploration of the Down Country.

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YAFFORD HOUSE is situated 1 m. S.W. of Shorewell. Only one old wall remains, and in it is inserted a stone inscribed I. G., I. G., 1709, supposed to be the initials of John and James Grimes.

YAFFORD, LITTLE, situated to the S.W. of Yafford House, is an interesting house built in the time of James I., with a porch added in 1705.

YAR. There are in the Isle of Wight two small rivers or streams so named. One rises near Freshwater Bay, and flows 3 m. N. to the Solent at Yarmouth. It becomes tidal at Freshwater Mill. The other stream rises in the S. of the island and flows N.E. to Bembridge.

YARBRIDGE, a mile to the S. of Brading, marks the point where a bridge spans the river Yar. In 1545 there was a fight near here between a number of French invaders and the inhabitants of the island, the latter successfully resisting the intruders. Yarbridge affords some very fair fishing.

YARMOUTH is 10 m. W. of Newport. As the name indicates, this little town is built on the mouth of the River Yar. Considerable changes have, however, taken place in the form of the name from time to time; one of the ancient spellings having been Eremuth. Yarmouth was once a place of very considerable importance, derived to some extent, doubtless, from its being much used as a port of communication between the island and the mainland. It



## THE ISLE OF WIGHT

was a borough regularly sending two members to Parliament from 1585 to 1832.

According to Sir Richard Worsley's account in "The History of the Isle of Wight," 1781, this ancient borough received a charter from Baldwin de Redvers, who was one of the early lords of the isle. This was supplemented and confirmed by charters of Edward I., Henry VI., Edward IV. and Elizabeth. The Mayor and Burgesses paid for their privileges, immunities, and liberties, the fee-farm of twenty shillings yearly payable at Michaelmas. In the second year of the reign of Richard II. (1378-1379), the town was entirely burned by the French, and from other accounts it seems to have suffered also in 1277 and 1524. It was the last-named calamity which led to the erection of Yarmouth Castle.

The charter of James I., granted in the seventh year of his reign (1609-1610), declares Yarmouth to be a free borough, a body politic and corporate, with capacity to purchase, to plead, etc., and to have a common seal; twelve chief Burgesses were to be the Common Council, and one of the number was to be chosen Mayor; they were empowered to elect a Steward, a Common Clerk, and a Serjeant at Mace; they were to have a market every Wednesday, and an annual fair on St James's day, the eve before and the day after, with a court of pie-powder, etc., and special licence and authority were given to the Mayor and Burgesses to purchase and hold to them and their successors for ever, any manors, lands, etc., not holden of the King *in*

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*capite*, or by Knight's service, not exceeding the value of £20 per annum. The castle of Yarmouth was expressly excepted from the provisions of this charter.

Unfortunately the town records are lost. They were taken away under the following circumstances. At the close of the American War a revenue cutter was stationed off Lynington to check the contraband trade which was carried on in the district, and the result was that a cargo of spirits was soon captured. The smugglers were taken before the authorities at Yarmouth, but as the authorities were friendly the men were all discharged. This miscarriage of justice so enraged the officer of the cutter, that he swore a round oath he would go ashore and take away their mace and books and everything they had. Accordingly he landed a boat's crew, it is said, broke into the town hall, captured the mace, carried off the town books, and retreated with the spoils to the ship in safety. The books have never been seen since.

The mace, which still exists, is of silver gilt, nearly nineteen inches long, and of unusual type and character. It has a plain shaft divided by banded knops with cabled rings on each side into four sections, and surmounted by a conical mace-head. This head is encircled by a cresting of fleurs-de-lis and small crosses, enclosing within a ring of egg-and-tongue ornament, the royal arms and initials of Charles II. The lower end of the shaft has a grip with five scroll-work flanges, and on the flat button at the end

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are engraved the initials of Charles II., and the date 1660. The mace is probably contemporary with the charter of James I., the present royal arms having doubtless been inserted at the Restoration in the place of the Commonwealth arms.

The corporate seal, bearing a three-masted ship with furled sails, is evidently a modern copy of an ancient seal.

The existing church (St James) was built from the proceeds of a brief early in the seventeenth century, and stands on or near the site of an earlier church of 13th century and later architecture. The building does not require any particular description. On the S. side of the chancel is the Holmes Chapel, erected in 1692, in which is a large white marble statue in memory of Sir Robert Holmes, Captain of the Wight from 1667 to 1692. This statue, originally intended to represent Louis XIV., was captured from a French ship, and a new head having been substituted, it was set up as the effigy of Sir Robert Holmes.

The house in which Sir Robert Holmes's family lived was afterwards converted into an inn known as "The George Inn." The building, now known as "The Pier Hotel," has been much altered at various times, but for some years its fine old staircase was preserved, and probably it still exists.

Yarmouth Castle was built by Henry VIII. after the second burning of the town by the French in 1524. In 1597-98 a house was



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built on the platform; and in 1609-10, and again in 1632, the castle was repaired. In 1650 the Commonwealth ordered that Yarmouth Castle should have a lieutenant and sixty men instead of the former force of thirty men.

YAUERLAND is situated on Sandown Bay,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles N.E. of Sandown. The church (St John the Baptist) was once a private chapel, and is believed to have been built as such in the 12th century. A chantry chapel was commenced, if not completed, in the 13th century. New windows and a rood-beam were inserted in the 15th century, and the church underwent a course of restoration in the year 1888, when a north aisle was added and the chancel was lengthened. Brading was reckoned the mother church of Yaverland, and in former days the parishioners of the latter place communicated at Brading Church. The parson of Yaverland was required to find two loads of straw annually to put in the church seats at Brading, six pounds of candles and ten shillings in money, all of which were to be contributed to Brading Church. In the 13th century the name of this place was written Ewerlid.

The manor-house, which contains some good woodwork, is a building of the 17th century.

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### CHARLES I. IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT

THE association of Charles I. with the Isle of Wight forms an important phase in the chequered history of that monarch, as well as a somewhat notable event in the history of the island. It has been considered advisable, therefore, to give, as an appendix to this little volume, a few of the more remarkable details of the king's flight to the Isle of Wight, his incarceration in Carisbrooke Castle, and his attempts to escape from prison.

In the year 1852, Mr George Hellier published a little book entitled, "A Narrative of the Attempted Escapes of Charles the First from Carisbrooke Castle, and of his detention in the Isle of Wight from November 1647 to the seizure of his person by the Army at Newport in November 1648, including the letters of the King to Colonel Titus, now first deciphered and printed from the originals." The following extracts are from this book, and relate specially to the association of Charles the First with the Isle of Wight.

"The king, having a suspicion that his life would be endangered if he remained at Hampton

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Court, where he was then (1647) residing, resolved, after a conference with Sir John Berkeley, and Mr Ashburnham, and Mr Legg, grooms of his chambers, to retire from thence to the Isle of Wight, where he would have an opportunity of sojourning with his tried and right loyal adherent, Sir John Oglander, until the feeling of Colonel Robert Hammond, who was then governor of the island, could be ascertained. Early on the evening of the 11th of November 1647, after leaving three letters on his bedroom table, addressed to the Parliament, Colonel Whalley and Lord Montague, wherein he states his reasons for privately withdrawing from the palace, the king accordingly made his way from his apartments, through a door where no guard was set, into the park unperceived, at once crossed the Thames by means of a boat ready to convey him, and landed at Ditton, where Ashburnham had been previously residing, and where his majesty was received by him, Sir John Berkeley, and Mr Legg. In their company, he immediately directed his course into Hampshire; but on arriving within twenty miles of the coast, Charles ordered Mr Ashburnham and Sir John Berkeley to proceed to the island, and ascertain how the governor would receive him—a command they were reluctantly compelled to observe; whilst he at the same time, accompanied only by Mr Legg, progressed towards Tichfield House, the residence of the Earl of Southampton, where, in the absence of her son, he was entertained by the old countess



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of that name during the time his adherents were prosecuting their mission in the Isle of Wight."

[It is understood that the suggestion to withdraw privately to the Isle of Wight came from Ashburnham. The object was to keep the king's place of concealment a profound secret, so that in case he found it inconvenient in any way to stay in the island, the king would still be free to escape to France. This plan failed, however, as Hammond, the governor, proposed to return to the king with Ashburnham and Berkeley, as will be seen in the next extract.]

"On the completion of the arrangement just related, Ashburnham and Berkeley, accompanied by the governor, at once proceeded to Cowes; where Hammond, notwithstanding the remonstrances of his companions, was joined by Captain Baskett, who held the command of the castle there, and two servants, and from thence crossed the channel to Tichfield, when Ashburnham alone went upstairs to the king, and astounded him by announcing the governor's presence, who, he said, had come with them to make good what he had promised. The king, striking himself on his breast, exclaimed, 'What, have you brought Hammond with you? O Jack, you have undone me; for I am by this means made fast from stirring.' To which Mr Ashburnham replied, 'that if he mistrusted Hammond, he would undertake to remove him'; a proposition the king most disdainfully rejected by saying, 'I understand you well

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enough ; but the world would not excuse me. For if I should follow that counsel, it would be said and believed that he (Hammond) had ventured his life for me, and that I had unworthily taken it from him. No, it is now too late to think of anything but going through the way you have forced upon me, and to leave the issue with God ; and as if Fortune had set herself to confound his plans and frustrate his hopes, he was not allowed even a few moments to think calmly over his fate and let resolution fix itself, for Hammond and Baskett grew so impatient, a servant belonging to Lord Southampton was obligated to remind his majesty they were in attendance ; consequently, in about half an hour their presence was desired, and after kissing the king's hand were received cheerfully by him, the king addressing the governor to this effect : ‘ Hammond, after an intolerable restraint to my person at Hampton Court, I found there was a further design against my person by some which insinuated themselves into divers regiments of the army ; and having an earnest desire of the settling of the kingdom in such sort as might best conduce to a lasting peace throughout my dominions, and not to be an instrument of stirring up a new war, I have thought good to come to this place, with confidence of your fidelity in protecting my person from danger, until, by such addresses as shall be made unto us by the Parliament, there be a mutual agreement concluded, and our kingdom settled.’

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“Further temporising being now useless, the king, attended by Hammond, Baskett, Ashburnham, Sir John Berkeley, and Mr Legg, left Tichfield House for Cowes, where they remained during the night, the king sojourning at an alehouse, as the castle was then appropriated for a prison, and the next morning saw the unfortunate Charles quietly conducted to the castle of Carisbrook. In his progress thither a gentlewoman, as he passed through Newport, presented him with a damask rose, which grew in her garden at that cold season of the year, and prayed for him, which his majesty heartily thanked her for. . . . In thus proceeding to the Isle of Wight, the king had probably settled on no particular place in preference to another, his flight having been so sudden; although it is believed he had originally intended to sail for Jersey, and had still some hopes to procure a vessel.

“So early as the 7th of February Lord Kent, on the part of the committee, wrote to Hammond, informing him they have received some intelligence from a very good hand which has never failed, that there was then a design in agitation through the medium of one *Napier*, and a servant of David Murray (believed to be his majesty's tailor), to effect the enlargement of the king, by breaking the floor and ceiling of the room over the royal chamber, and drawing him up through the aperture so formed, from whence he was to



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be conveyed from one apartment to another, until all the rooms were passed where there was a guard at either door or window." . . .

[An attempt was made to set the king at liberty on March 20th, and the following particulars of it are taken from Firebrace's narrative.]

"Amongst other ways I proposed his coming out of his bedchamber window, which he said he could do, there being room enough.

"I told him I fancied it was too narrow. He said he had tryed with his head, and he was sure where that would pass his body would follow: yet still I doubted, and proposed a way to make it a little wider, by cutting the plate the casement shut to at the bottom, which then might easily have been put by.

"He objected, that might make a discovery, and commanded me to prepare all things else; and that, he was confident, would not impede him.

"I had made for this escape Mr Worsley (now Sir Edward Worsley), a very worthy gentleman now living in the island, Mr Richard Osburn, a gentleman put in by the Parliament to attend the king, and Mr John Newland of Newport, who all proved very faithful, and thus we were to proceed: I should toss something against the window, which was the sign to put himself out, and to let himself down by a cord which I for that purpose had given him.

"Being down, and in the dark night I was to conduct him across the court (no sentinel being in the way) to the great wall of the castle, where

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I was to have let him down by a long cord, a stick being fastened across the end for him to sit on.

“Beyond this wall was the counterscarp, which was low: beyond that, and quite out of the castle, waited Mr Worsley and Mr Osburn on horseback, with a good horse, saddle, pistols, boots, etc., for the king. They were to help his majesty from the counterscarp, which they could easily do from their horses.

“At the sea-side, in a convenient place, was Mr John Newland with a lusty boat, which might have carried his majesty to what part he thought fit; all things were thus prepared, and every one well instructed in his part. The king, as he walked, had been often showed the place by me where he was to be let down, and where he was to get over the counterscarp, which his majesty well approved of.

“In the middle of these hopes, I gave the sign at the appointed time; his majesty put himself forward, but then too late found himself mistaken, he sticking fast between his breast and shoulders, and not able to get forward or backward, but that, at the instant before he endeavoured to come out, he mistrusted and tied a piece of his cord to a bar of the window within, by means whereof he forced himself back.

“Whilst he stuck I heard him groan, but could not come to help him, which (you may imagine) was no small affliction to me. So soon as he was in again, to let me see (as I had to my grief heard) the design was broken, he set a

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candle in the window. If this unfortunate impediment had not happened, his majesty had certainly then made a good escape.

“Now I was in pain how to give notice to those without; which I could find no better way to do, than by flinging stones from the high wall, where I should have let down the king to the place where they staid, which proved so effectual, that they went off, and never any discovery was made of this.”

In a note, passed by the chink, from the king to Firebrace, immediately after this unfortunate failure, he says: “The narrowness of the window was the only impediment of my escape, and, therefore, some instrument must be had to remove that bar, which, I believe, is not hard to get; for I have seen many, and so portable, that a man might put them in his pocket. I think it is called the endless screw or the great force. I have now made a perfect trial, and find it impossible to be done, for my body is much too thick for the breadth of the window, so that unless the middle bar be taken away I cannot get through. It is absolutely impossible to do anything to-morrow night, but I command you, heartily and particularly, to thank in my name A. (Cresset), C. (Col. Legg), F. (Dowcett), Z. (Mr Worsley), and him who staid for me beyond the works (Mr Newland), for their hearty and industrious endeavours in this my service; the which I shall always remember, being likewise confident that they will not fail in so good a work.”



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[Preparations for an attempted escape were again made during April and May, and the extracts immediately following are from undated letters of about this time of the king to Captain Titus.]

“I know not how fying can be, without much noise and tyme; but if you can cleare this doubte, I absolutely conceive this to be the best way: yet D’s (Firebrace) new way is not to be rejected; and may be tryed (as I suppose) without much danger, that is to say: make this fellow of the Backstaires try how he can conduct his friends in and out at that tyme of night, without strict examination of the Gards: in a word: you that walk abroad freely can much better judge of the sensibilitie of this, then I: wherefor, seriously I remitt myself to your judgement herein, only with this opinion; that the easie or difficult removing of the barr will cast the scales, in my judgement, betwixt the two wayse. . . .

“I have been considering the Bar of my Window and fynde that I must cut it in two places; for that place where I must cut it above, I can hide it with the leade that tyes the Glasse; but there is nothing that can hyde the lower part; wherefor, I conceive it cannot but be discovered, if I leave off when I have once begune it: and how to make but one labour of it, I cannot yet conceive: but if I had a forcer, I could make my way well anufe; or if you could

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teache me how to make the fyre-shovell and tongues supply that place, which I believe not impossible. Of this (I meane how to remove the Bar) I desyre to be resolved before you goe ; wherefor I pray you give me an answer to this as soone as you can, for I believe our maine Business depends much upon it.

“The difficultie of removing the Bar, hath made my thoughts runne much upon the later Designe : it is this : since for my going out at Window, it is necessary that an Officer or two should be gained, will not they as willingly and may they not more easily, helpe me out at the Dore?”

[The following extract is from a letter written by the king, largely in cypher, and dated 24th of May.]

“Yours of yesterday’s Date I have receaved this afternoon, which, though short, gave me much satisfaction ; and to which my answer is by the help of fate I shall try to escape upon Sunday night next. The cause why we could not doe it this night is, because the course of the guards are altered, for our men have it settled, so that their turn comes but on Sunday night.”

[The following extracts are from the “Narrative.”]

“The urgency of the present moment rendered all concerned anxious to conclude without

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delay the difficult proceeding which it was hoped would once more give Charles freedom and safety ; and as the selection of time and opportunity now rested solely with the king, his adherents remained with unshrinking patience in nightly expectation of favourable circumstances enabling him to act on the well-arranged plan.

“ Consequently, as nights as dark as the season of the year would allow had again set in, it was decided by his majesty, every preparation being fully perfected, that the attempt should be made on Sunday, the 28th of May. On the evening of that day he therefore betook himself early to his chamber, and in the stillness of midnight, having already stealthily cut the former fatal impediment to his flight, determined to pass through the window ; but noticing more persons under it than he expected to be in waiting, and perceiving the absence of him on whom he principally depended, his suspicions became excited, and, in the belief that his intentions were discovered, he closed the casement and retired.”

[The Treaty of Newport.]

“ On Monday, the 2nd October 1648, this memorable treaty commenced in the old town-hall of Newport, then recently erected. The commissioners assembled in a room appointed to their use at 9 o'clock in the morning, and after hearing prayers from Mr Vines, one of their chaplains, sent an intimation to the king that they



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were ready to wait upon him at the treaty. His majesty proceeded from Mr Hopkins' house to the treaty-chamber in state, in his coach, with the lords and others in attendance on him, his coachman and footman having new suits with broad plate silver lace, two in a seam, and, being seated, the commissioners entered bare-headed. The king then arose, and, taking off his hat, desired them to be placed at the table when they presented their credentials, which authorized them to treat with him personally upon the propositions formerly offered at Hampton Court. . . . Under a canopy of state, ascended by steps, was seated the king, whilst the commissioners were arrayed at some distance on either side of a long table; and immediately behind the king's chair stood the lords in waiting and his chaplains, together with Sir P. Warwick, Mr Oudart, Sir Edward Walker, and others. When his majesty desired to put a question, or his friends wished to offer a suggestion, he retired into a private apartment. . . .

“For sixty and one days Charles continued to date his correspondence from ‘Our Court at Newport’; and it would certainly seem that Newport must have been suddenly endowed with the power of elasticity, in order to receive and accommodate the number of persons this eventful procedure had then congregated together.”

[The king's departure from the Isle of Wight.]

“When the king was ready to take coach,

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he asked whether he was to have any servants with him. 'Only such,' answered the Lieutenant-Colonel, 'as are useful.' The king then nominated Mr Harrington and Mr Herbert to attend in his bedchamber, and scarce a dozen more for other service. . . . The coach went westward, toward's Worsley's Tower, in Freshwater Isle, a little beyond Yarmouth Haven, and thereabout his majesty rested until the vessel was ready to take him aboard with those few attendants. The king, after an hour's stay, went aboard, a sorrowful spectacle and great example of Fortune's inconstancy. The wind and tide favouring, they crossed the narrow sea in three hours, and landed at Hurst Castle."

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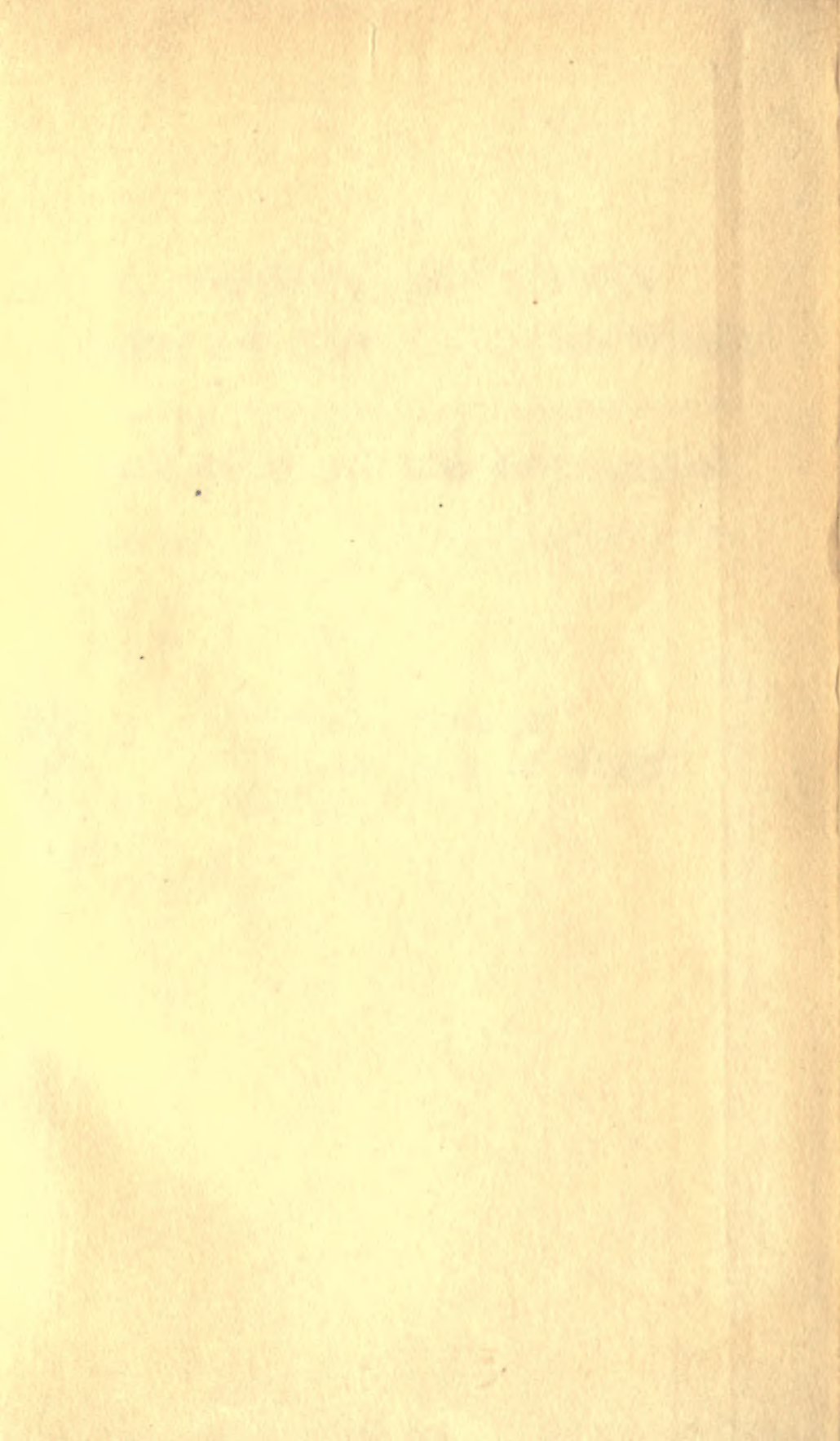
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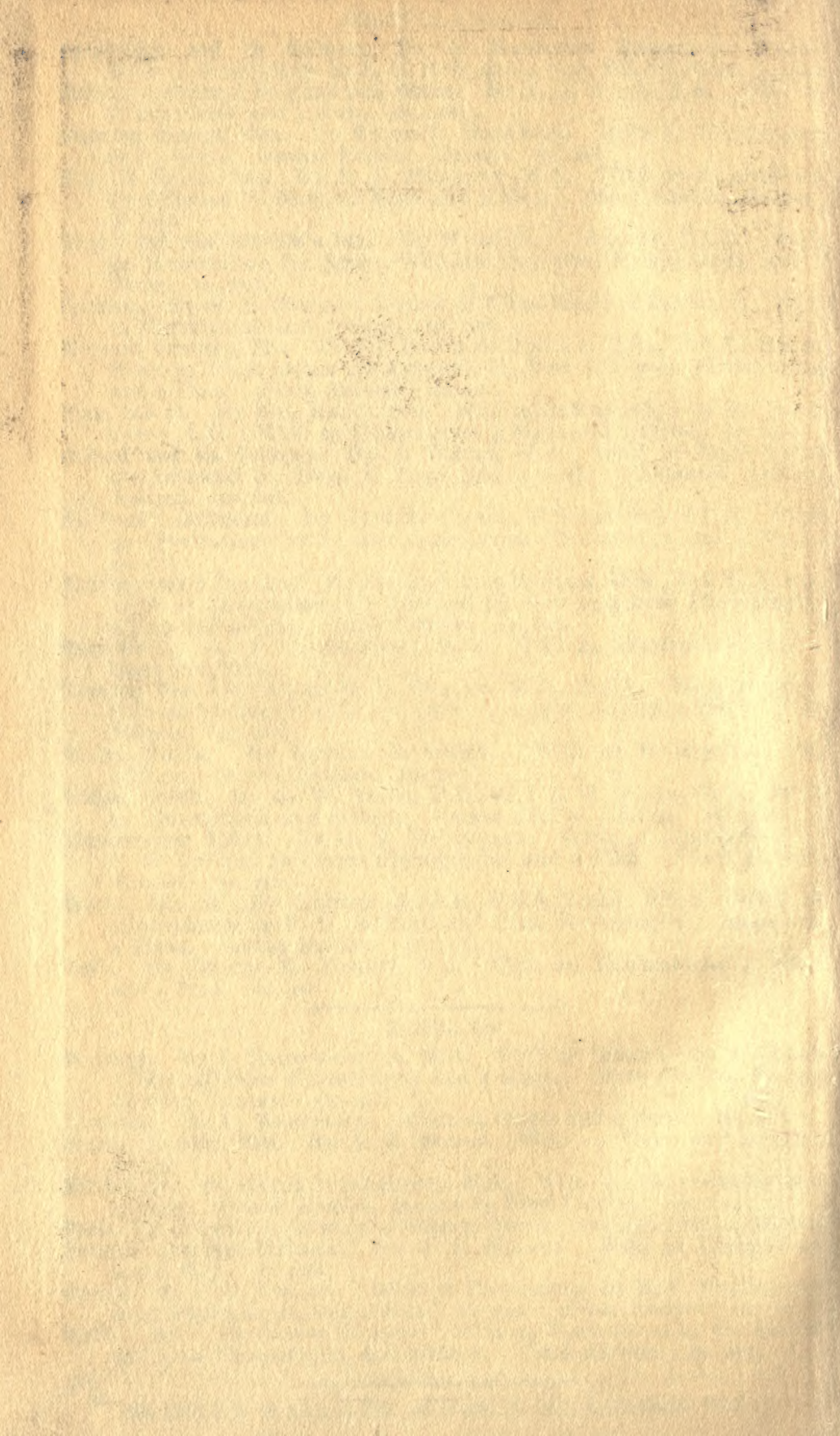
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